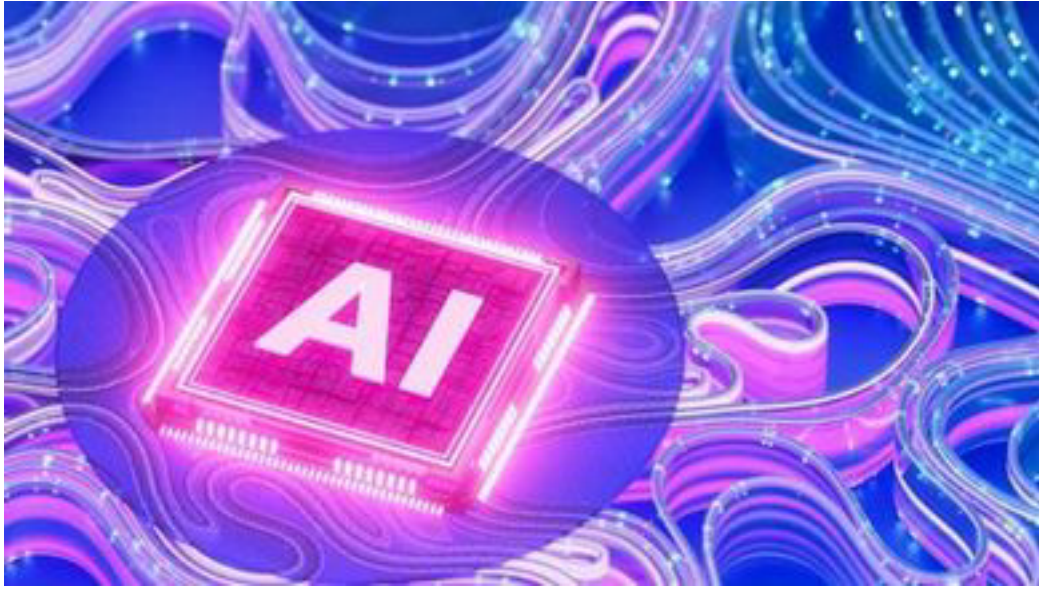


Nordmeccanica Invests in Artificial Intelligence



The Piacenza (Italy)-based company has made its first flexible packaging machine entirely guided by this technology. The entire project required investments of around two million Euros, nearly 50% of the Group's annual R&D budget

It is the technology of the moment, and in the years to come AI promises to remain at the forefront, with global investments in the sector to reach 200 billion dollars by 2025 (Goldman Sachs estimate). Growth which will bring benefits in many sectors, generating considerable wealth. McKinsey estimates that generative AI will create wealth of between 2.6 and 4.4 trillion dollars per year, in addition to the 11-17.7 trillion expected from non-generative AI.

In Italy too the sector is undergoing exponential growth, so much so that the market recorded a 52% increase this year compared to 2022, reaching a total value of 760 million Euros (data from Polytechnic University of Milan's School of Management). Six out of ten large Italian companies have already started up some artificial intelligence projects, at least at an experimental level, and two out of three have

discussed applications of generative AI internally, with one in four starting to experiment with it.

Among the companies which have chosen to put a stake on this technology is Piacenza-based Nordmeccanica, which has created its first flexible packaging machine entirely guided by artificial intelligence.

Specialised in the production of machinery for flexible packaging, the group has almost 4,000 active machines installed worldwide, used primarily by the food and pharma sectors. It employs over 300 people directly, boasts four production plants, and closed FY 2023 with turnover of 100+ million Euros (90% of which was generated abroad).

The Group's new machine, the "Triplex SL One Shot AI", produces solvent-free laminated packaging films which are 100% recyclable, in accordance with the European packaging directive. Thanks to artificial intelligence, the machine is able to analyse over 100 parameters relating to materials, processes and working conditions, defining the operational settings and adapting them autonomously through machine learning as the materials used or operating conditions change. All the data gathered by the machine can be viewed and analysed on the integrated computer's touchscreen, and can be shared on the company network or via cloud in order to integrate or clone the production processes to networks of connected machines, even if they are located in other parts of the world.

“This project is a response to Nordmeccanica's three pillars of strategic development: sustainability, digitalisation and safety, both in terms of production and for people,” explains Vincenzo Cerciello, company vice president. “As well as improving the efficiency of the machines, increasing quality and reducing consumption and waste,” he continues, “artificial intelligence also allows us to respond to changes in the world of work: companies are requiring more automation to offset the difficulties in finding personnel, while the high level of digitalisation allows more young people to be hired, as they are used to dealing with intuitive equipment and more predisposed to digital measures.”

The entire design and production of the machine required investments of around two million Euros, nearly 50% of the Group's annual R&D budget “AI technology represents a paradigm change for our production, as it provides us with a new platform on which to develop all our future machines,” Cerciello concludes. “It also

gives us the possibility to apply these systems to the majority of pre-existing machines.”