



Italian lamination machines supplier Nordmeccanica expands business in Asia Pacific

MILAN, Italy, Nov. 18 (Xinhua) -- World-class lamination machines supplier Nordmeccanica on Tuesday signed a preferred vendor agreement with Amcor Flexibles Asia Pacific (AFAP), the largest flexible packaging manufacturer in the Asia Pacific region. AFAP, whose parent group Amcor Limited is headquartered in Melbourne, Australia, will buy from Nordmeccanica the machinery for all of its 38 plants across China and Southeast Asia, according to a statement from Nordmeccanica, based in Piacenza, Italy.

The 24-month agreement, expected to be extended to India next year, will provide optimized standard machine specifications and options, together with an improved and simplified process for ordering, delivery, installation and commissioning, the statement said.

"This strategic partnership supports our rapid growth throughout Asia and also enhances our ability to respond rapidly to the needs of our customers," AFAP President Ralf Wunderlich said at the signing ceremony held in Piacenza.

"Partnering with AFAP and supplying to all the plants in Asia Pacific is a win for us and I am certain that we will benefit strongly from this partnership," Nordmeccanica President Antonio Cerciello said.

"We are already preparing for what the market will be like in five years, which allows us to uphold our quality standards and our prices and to continue to generate skilled employment in Italy," he added.

Nordmeccanica's lamination machines promises high performance yet low energy consumption, with minimal emission and solventless or water based technology.

The Italian company has 280 employees, five plants - three in Italy, one in China and one in the United States - and two direct operations in India and Argentina, besides a network of representatives covering 87 countries worldwide.

First founded in 1978, Nordmeccanica boasts a market share of 75 percent in flexible packaging and 55 percent in the industrial application field, with an estimated 2014 turnover of 100 million euros (125 million U.S. dollars), up 14 percent with respect to 2013. AFAP employs more than 7,000 people across 38 manufacturing plants in eight countries. Sales of Amcor Limited during the year ended June of 2014 were 9.5 billion U.S. dollars, according to the group's official figures.