

How does industrialisation change? Intelligent machines result in improved efficiency and cost saving

"The need to contain costs can have particular consequences on assembly processes. Innovation, reliability and the simplification of production flows will be the key factors in the continual improvement of the assembly and final inspection of Metal Work products". Alessio Facondo, who has recently become the head of process engineering, has a very clear idea of

"In the future, assembly within the company will be strengthened by means of increased automation and overall computerisation ,,"

both the role the company assigns to his department and the program he has been asked to develop. "Six Sigma: the reduction of wastes connected to process automation will make industrial activity leaner, eliminating waste and thereby leading to cost reduction", explains Facondo. One of the major objectives is the use of new materials in Metal Work products. "Working with the product

engineers, we will exploit technological evolution to the maximum, seeking to introduce the most innovative methods and means", says Facondo.

"We will also review our older products, evaluating the feasibility and convenience of changing materials, so as to improve quality and to lower costs." "As far as the Group's information-system project currently being set up by Metal Work is concerned, the time has come to implement the most sophisticated communication tools throughout the entire production area", observes the department head. "Information must

be exchanged between the production units just the way it is exchanged between the people or offices. In short, each machine must be able to interact with the company information system in order to ensure maximum efficiency, functionality and cost-savings, thus making it possible for the company to optimise resources. The information flows must therefore be automatic, occur in real-time and not



Interesting fact

Six Sigma (trademark registered by Motorola a dozen years ago) is a statistical method designed to eliminate defects in any process whatsoever. In order to reach the Six Sigma objective, a process must not have more than 3 or 4 defects in a million of cases.

be subject to any form of manipulation". These new action lines must naturally involve the entire Metal Work world, from the Concesio plant to the Group's other production centres, from branches to suppliers. "If we're able to operate as a group and if we successfully valorise all of the synergies present", Facondo underlines, "our company will take a major leap forward in the market".

Alessio Facondo, a new Metal Work manager

Scientific thinking and managerial spirit, an academic approach and a corporate philosophy, theory and practice. This is what Alessio Facondo, in charge of process engineering since the beginning of the year, brings to Metal Work.

A graduate in mechanical engineering from the Milan Polytechnic, 46 years old, Facondo has more than 20 years' corporate experience and was a

lecturer at the University of Brescia for three years. In 1982, he participated in a study program for international executives in Japan, then conducted

"Scientific knowledge and managerial techniques contribute to giving the company an innovative incentive ,,"

research at the University of Tokyo for a year, and worked on the design of vehicle mechanisms and suspension for Nissan.

When he returned to Italy, he joined a major Lombardy company, first as manager of one of the group's engineering companies and then

becoming director of the machine-tools division. In 1998, he was made head of the Stresa consortium's scientific department.

In 2000, he was appointed Professor of Mechanical Technology at the University of Brescia, while continuing to hold corporate managerial positions.



Alessio Facondo
Director of
Process Engineering

He moved to Metal Work on 1 January 2003, becoming part of a dynamic organisation, technologically advanced and growing rapidly.

As director of the process-engineering division, he will play a strategic role in the Group's development which, given recent industrial acquisitions in Italy and Brazil, has taken on a particularly demanding production profile.

His priorities will include improvement of the industrial processes and the creation of synergy with the project-engineering division, so that production efficiency is increased and costs reduced.

The figures

For a technologically advanced company like Metal Work, the added value of process engineering is a key factor for success. The division does not only translate projects into production systems but works on the continual improvement of industrial activity through efficiency and plant optimisation and supervises its optimal functioning.

- At the Concesio plant, Metal Work manufactures more than 80% of its inventory.
- Annual production requires more than half a million machine-hours.
- More than 90% of the pieces produced are handled by automated systems.
- Each individual product assembled is subjected to a final inspection on automated machines.
- On the average, each year, 170,000 inspections are recorded for the analysis and improvement of production processes.