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SUSTAINABLE CLEANING

In collective catering, dishwashing systems and products such as ovens or mixers belong to two distinct categories. To start, dishwashers have to deal with a disadvantage: **"The dishwasher represents a cost for the end customer and it is often overshadowed by other equipment that guarantees immediate profit,"** explains Giorgio Annovazzi, Southern Europe Sales Director Washing Systems & Key Account at the time of the project. However, even if dishwashers do not generate profit, **they can guarantee an equally significant advantage: reducing operating costs.** That's why Comenda has always aimed to save energy. Crowning this eco-sustainable approach is **the heat pump, which saves up to 50% of energy.** Taking for granted the energy saving guaranteed by heat pumps would be a mistake: "We are talking about an element that many of our competitors have given up on, either because of costs or practicality," explains Annovazzi, "but we had great faith in this approach, and we encouraged our technical department to pursue this direction."

Energy saving has proved very important for the Finnish company Wärtsilä, for whom Comenda realized a tailor-made washing system, for the canteen of their Italian plant in Trieste. Wärtsilä is one of the world's largest manufacturers of marine and land engines, and it has plants in over eighty countries. Trieste headquarters is the second largest in Europe. **The canteen has a 750-seat capacity, serves meals to about 1000 employees and contractors and operates on three daily shifts.**



Giorgio Annovazzi
 Southern Europe Sales Director Washing Systems & Key Account
 at the time of the project





The connection between Wärtsilä and Comenda dates back to 1994, when the Milanese company provided a complete tray washing system to the company that used to run the canteen. "That plant was of great importance to us", recalls Annovazzi, "because it was the first project equipped with a tray washer with an automatic loader system directly from the polycord unit."

Over time, this connection survived changes of ownership and name. Thanks to that positive experience, when Wärtsilä Italy started to look for candidates for the supply of new machines, Comenda was at the top of the list, as confirmed by Massimiliano Marcotto, Real Estate manager: "We considered other manufacturers as well, but, as a matter of fact, we had already chosen Comenda, given our excellent experience with a machine that we have used for twenty-five years. The service provided by the company has always been impeccable."

There was a second decisive factor in Wärtsilä's choice: "The new washing system," continues Marcotto, "is part of a much larger project of Green Factory, which aims to the optimization of energy consumption throughout the entire plant. Hence the need to replace our old dishwashers with new, more energy efficient models."

"Comenda machines ensure greater power efficiency because they reuse the steam generated during the washing cycle instead of releasing it into the environment, thus helping make the work area healthier", explains Marcotto.

The system supplied by Comenda became operational in May 2018 and consists of two tunnel units: a small, rack conveyor model for cutlery and glasses, and a flight type unit for dishes, bowls and trays. An organic waste management unit was added, consisting of a waste disposal and a dehydration centrifuge that separates the liquid part and reduces the volume of organic mass by 80%. In addition, organic waste is disposed of through watertight pipelines, which reduce operator intervention.



The Wärtsilä Team: **Massimiliano Marcotto**, Real Estate Manager (in the middle), **Roberto Campagna**, Specialised electrical technician (on the left) and **Luca Bonicardi**, Project Manager (on the right).

As it often happens with large projects, the main challenge Comenda faced was to work on predefined spaces, which are often not ideal. In this case, Comenda had to partially give up the use of conveyor belts (which make the organisation more orderly and efficient) in favour of more convenient trolleys, to guarantee enough safety space. "It is only by taking into account the available space, the number of operators involved, and the organization of work, that we are able to provide the most suitable system for the customer's needs," concludes Annovazzi, "we pay attention to every detail that can create a more comfortable working environment, always putting people first."

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