

#01 Press release

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Italian Technology Awards 2023: with the pandemic behind them, US students return to Italy to gain a deeper understanding of the top glass processing companies.

The Italian Technology Awards concluded its 5th edition on January 19 at the Le Stelline Congress Centre in Milan with the presentation of the Certificates of Participation in the international program backed by ITA (Italian Trade Agency) in which more than 40 students and eight of Italy's foremost capital goods trade associations took part. Representing the glass processing industry in the program were five GIMAV member companies that, January 16-18, hosted the most meritorious students from prestigious US universities.

27 January 2023 - "This 5th edition of the **Italian Technology Awards**, after years of forced hiatus due to the pandemic, is extremely meaningful because it reaffirms the key alliance between ITA and Federmacchine [Italian Federation of Associations of Manufacturers of Capital Goods for Industrial and Non-Industrial Manufacturing Processes] in promoting the most innovative production engineering technologies," stated Antonio Lucarelli, Manager for the Industrial Technology, Energy and Environment division of ITA, in his opening remarks.

Focused on glass processing technologies, the program provided **an opportunity for growth and exchange of ideas**. Its primary objective was to **connect the students with industry** for a hands-on experience of the history and expertise embodied by Italy's global leaders in glass processing technologies, **laying the groundwork for future relations between the academic world and the business community**. From the perspective of suppliers of glass processing machinery and equipment, it is a strategic opening. The United States is the sector's number-one global customer with a 10.4% share of total exports in 2021, and with an 8.6% expected increase based on early estimates from 2022.

The US students from Pennsylvania – *Robert Morris University* in Moon Township and *Lehigh University* in Bethlehem – and from the *University of Notre Dame, Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering* in Notre Dame, Indiana, began the tours on Monday, January 16 in Treviso at **FOREL**, global leader in the design and manufacturing of solutions for processing flat and insulating glass. Accompanied by Sales Manager, Carlo Zuccarello, Expo Area Manager, Giovanni Quarti, and Marketing Manager, Giacomo Molucchi, they toured the company's production department to learn about its interesting history, from 1976 to the present, during which time the company has become a global leader in the industry with exports to more than 70 countries. "It was indeed a pleasure to host these talented youth who, like us, have chosen to focus their professional lives on glass," commented Zuccarello. "We are confident that the visit was a stimulating educational experience and, since ours is a fairly narrow, specialized sector, I'm convinced we will have occasion to see one another again."

The following morning the tour continued at **CEFLA**: *“It was a real pleasure to show these students and future managers around CEFLA, which recently celebrated 90 years of business focused on excellence in the glass processing industry. A guided tour of the company’s Imola facility gave the group a live experience of the machinery in operation, allowing them to understand the mechanisms and possible array of applications of printing on glass,”* stated Area Sales Manager Angelo Radice, who led the group on the second leg of their tour.

In the afternoon, the tour continued at **STUDIO 1 AUTOMAZIONI INDUSTRIALI**, in the vicinity of Reggio Emilia, where the students, accompanied by Sales and Marketing Manager Barbara Righi, and Sales Manager Marco Barozzi, observed a special automated loading and unloading system for glass sheets, a unique opportunity in the design and construction of industrial automation. *“Our aim with this visit was to convey our primary know-how,”* the company explained. *“Each of our projects is based on working directly with the client, which ensures the successful pairing of our technological experience and the client’s production experience, thus achieving excellent results with customized equipment and systems for every need.”*

The guided tours continued Wednesday morning at **CMS** – a leader in technologically state-of-the-art glass processing machinery, like CNC machining centers, cutting tables, and water-jet cutting systems – where Sergio Gervasoni, Business Manager of the glass division and Alessandro Colella, Product Manager walked the visitors through demonstrations of the latest high-tech solutions. *“The student visit, organized along with GIMAV, was quite compelling, because it offered the visitors a firsthand experience of the glass production lines and glass processing machines, just as CMS had the opportunity to interact with a highly specialized university culture. I cannot rule out,”* commented Gervasoni *“the possibility of future partnerships.”*

The last stop, on Wednesday afternoon, was at **OCMI-OTG**, a well-established Milanese company specialized in hollow glass, where OCMI President Michele Gusti, and Sales Manager Alessandro Crescentini showed the group the ampoule and vial production lines. At the conclusion of the visit, they remarked, *“We are honored to have welcomed the delegation of student winners of the Italian Technology Awards 2023 at our Milan headquarters. We walked them through our plant highlighting the work performed during the Covid-19 pandemic to meet the needs for pharmaceutical packaging in borosilicate glass.”*

At the conclusion of the event, **GIMAV Director Fabrizio Cattaneo** observed, *“The Italian Technology Awards are an incredible opportunity for growth and development for both the participating companies and the students, who are selected through the analysis and study of their theses on the subject of glass processing technologies. In fact, this is an initiative that creates real opportunities to interact and exchange ideas between the international academic world and the business community, laying the groundwork for building relationships between companies and the managers of the future.”*