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Bracco group celebrates twenty years of bracco spin as it continues investing and creating new jobs

Bracco is planning to expand production capacity at its Torviscosa plant to meet the increasing demand for X-ray contrast agents, and will be making new hires. The announcement was made during the conference “*Sustainability, growth, employment: The Torviscosa model,*” organized as part of Confindustria's twenty-second Business Culture Week whose attendees included the President of the Region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Massimiliano Fedriga. At the end of the conference, the Municipality of Torviscosa honoured Diana Bracco with a freedom of the town award.

Torviscosa, 6 November 2023 – Twenty years ago the Bracco Group revitalized the Torviscosa production facility. “I remember as if it were yesterday how, at the end of the 1990s, needing to expand production in response to growing international demand for contrast agents, we settled on this plant in the Region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia,” declared **Diana Bracco Chair and CEO of the Group**. “Ours was a bold choice, bordering on the audacious, because it demanded a massive investment and herculean effort to construct a state-of-the-art Industry 4.0 factory within the historic structures, all the while under the watchful eye of the Superintendency of Cultural Heritage. These were buildings that the knight of industry Franco Marinotti, Chair of Snia Viscosa at the time, had commissioned from architect De Min in the 1930s.” The restoration work required 135 thousand person hours of engineering and the work of 500 people. All told, 93 cubic metres of internal beams and 670 cubic metres of other pre-existing plant structures were demolished. By the end, 4,263 kilograms of carbon steel, 268,350 kilograms of stainless steel from old reactors, 3,300 kilograms of aluminium, and 6,150 electrical cables had been recovered. “It was incredibly hard work,” recalled **Diana Bracco**, “but it resulted in our gaining a new production plant and the opening of a new chapter in the in the long history of Torviscosa. Working alongside the Commissioner, the Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region and national and local bodies, we succeeded in creating the conditions for the revitalization of the site and for the consequent new investment in research, employment and sustainable development. Working together, public with private sector, we did good work. The historical function of Torviscosa as a chemicals plant needed defending, and we can proudly say that we rose to and overcame the challenge.”

Today, Bracco SPIN is a cutting-edge company of 170 people based on a site measuring 58 thousand square metres, 900 of which consist of research laboratories. Its divisions produce APIs and advanced intermediates for X-ray and computerized tomography contrast media are produced in a continuous cycle (24 hours a day), the aim being to achieve



maximum safety with minimal environmental impact. The plant is equipped with highly advanced water and air purification systems, in accordance with Good Manufacturing Practice-FDA rules. The facility is certified under UNI EN ISO 14001, UNI EN ISO 9001, BS OHSAS 18001, and participates in Federchimica's voluntary Responsible Care programme, which promotes low environmental impact production.

"We are planning another significant expansion of this plant, which we are really banking on," explained **Fulvio Renoldi Bracco, Vice-Chair and CEO of Bracco Imaging**, "because it is highly automated and fitted with sensors and innovative technologies that optimize the use of energy and resources, while the substantial solvent and raw material recovery maximizes the circular economy." With the Galileo Project we will increase production by 50 per cent from 2026, which will have a positive impact on the entire local area as it will involve a significant increase in the workforce."

This Bracco Group facility is the result of the restoration of the historic industrial chemicals zone of Friuli, which has recovered its international appeal and now stands as a model of the sort of virtuous reconversion that can contribute to ecological and energy transition targets. Taking part at the conference "**Sustainability, growth, employment: the Torviscosa model**," at CID – Centro di Informazione e Documentazione, were: **Enrico Monticolo**, Mayor of Torviscosa, **Antonio Alunni**, President of the Culture Working group of Confindustria, **Daniela Bernacchi**, Executive Director of the Global Compact Network Italy and, by remote link, Professor **Antonio Massarutto** of the University of Udine, and **Laetitia Laurent**, Director of the Bracco SPIN plant.

At the end of the conference, the **Municipality of Torviscosa honoured Diana Bracco with a freedom of the town award** citing for its reason that: "Diana Bracco's role as an entrepreneur and patron was pivotal in transforming Torviscosa into an exemplary case of synergy between production, development, preservation of heritage and the cultural revival of the area and its community."

The event celebrating Spin's twentieth anniversary was concluded with music from two exemplars of Italian cultural excellence, Coro di Voci Bianche (a children's choir) and Piccolo Coro Artemia (a youth choir).

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