

QUALITY AND WORK CULTURE: SEVENTY YEARS OF SUCCESS

70
years

Bergamo-based Polynt celebrates by planning further growth in production and employment



President Rosario Valido

Seventy years of history that have made Polynt the world leader in the production of composite materials, starting from Scanzorosciate, in the province of Bergamo, where the headquarters of the entire group still operate today, with 12 production plants in Europe, 18 in America and four in Asia. With the prospect of further growth both internally and through acquisitions, turnover will increase by 500 million over the next two years and the number of employees will rise by 500 from the current 3,000.

A history full of important turning points that are brought into focus by Ceo Rosario Valido and that have always had two elements above all else: "The quality of the staff, exemplified by those at Scanzorosciate, which is the most productive plant in the Group", emphasises the Ceo, "and the research and development capacity of the company's

own laboratories, which have made it possible to put what has been developed into production immediately". In addition to these two pillars, Valido continues, which link together seven decades and a worldwide expansion of the company, "there was the intuition to entrust the management of all the plants to an Italian management with international depth, which helped to spread the work culture and corporate quality to all our sites". Polynt's overseas headquarters are located in Carpentersville, Illinois, and Pune, India. Composite materials, i.e. chemical and polymer compounds that can replace wood, metal and traditional materials to make them lighter and more resistant to corrosion, are the driving force behind the life of Polynt, a type of product that does not feel the crisis and, on the contrary, shows that it is not afraid of the future, with the search for quality and energy

AN ENTIRE SUPPLY CHAIN IN THE COMPANY

One of Polynt's strengths is the in-house management of the entire composites production-distribution chain, divided into research and development; production planning and procurement of raw materials; production process and quality control and logistics; warehousing; sales and after-sales service of finished products. Polynt currently employs 3,000 people, of whom 1,600 are in the European Union (including 1,000 in Italy), about 1,000 in the Americas and the rest in Asia.



Company exterior

savings that are typical of a sustainable era. "It is a production that systematically grows twice as fast as Gdp", summarises Valido.

Founded in 1955, the company's history is marked by a decisive moment in 1965, when the original Ftalital was acquired by the Swiss multinational Alusuisse, which in 1979 - another turning point - bought the Italian Distillerie di San Giovanni Valdarno and dedicated it to the production of unsaturated polyester resins and plasticisers. In 1997, the Lonza Group, of which Polynt's activities are part, separated from Algroup (Alusuisse) and listed separately on the Zurich Stock Exchange. Then began a period of strategic review of the Group that led to Polynt's separation from Lonza in 2006 with its listing on the Italian Stock Exchange and growth strategy. In 2011, the opening beyond the Ee with the landing in the Usa. In 2014, the next step made Polynt global, with the acquisition of 17 plants from Total, located in the Usa, Canada, Brazil, Malaysia, England, Spain and France. It was three years later, in 2017, that Polynt and Reichhold merged, propelling this company to number one in the world for its sector. The near future is outlined, with strategic choices including 'expansion in Asia by acquisition', Ceo Valido explains, "and, in the same way, growth in Europe in

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the water-based paint sector, where we are already the undisputed leader in the States". More specifically in terms of products, Polynt's composite materials are used in all sectors, from wind turbine blades and photovoltaic panel frames to automotive and buttons for shirts and jackets, thanks to their mix of lightness and strength that makes them competitive in terms of durability and lower consumption. So now "Polynt's research will continue to

focus on the transport sector, producing materials that will make vehicles lighter, from bicycles to boats to aircraft. "By reducing their weight", he concludes, "we reduce the amount of energy needed to run them, and therefore reduce maintenance costs and Co₂ production. Further research development is planned "in the area of solvent-free, i.e. water-based products, to make a significant contribution to sustainability", Valido concludes.

