**Montello S.p.A. and TOMRA: when excellence chooses excellence.**

*Montello S.p.A., based near Bergamo, Italy, uses the latest sensor-based technology of 40 TOMRA machines to give a new lease of life to tonnes of post-consumer plastic arriving from Lombardy.*

Montello S.p.A. Bergamo. A success story. An example of industrial conversion towards a green economy. Back in 1996, at the time of the steel crisis, the company's management decided to discontinue production of iron bars for reinforced concrete and transform the business into what would become one of the most advanced waste processing facilities in Europe and the only one in Italy capable of managing the complete cycle.

It proved to be a winning idea. Today, Montello S.p.A. occupies a 350,000 square metre industrial site, including a 120,000 square metre indoor area, and employs approximately 500 people. Technology is everywhere, mainly due to the use of TOMRA Sorting Recycling optical sensors, which are capable of recognising the different types of plastic and so reduce the need for manual sorting to a minimum.

This means 150,000 tonnes of post-consumer plastic packaging waste are recovered and recycled every year and, for the environment, a reduction of about 200,000 tonnes/year in CO2 emissions. Added to this, the company sorts and processes around 300,000 tonnes of organic waste collected for recycling, from which it obtains biogas (to produce the energy to power the facility) and high-quality fertilizer.

The company entered into the partnership with TOMRA Sorting Recycling immediately and by 1999 Italy had its first automatic system for sorting plastic containers for liquids (clear PET, blue PET, coloured PET and HDPE), as required by COREPLA, the Italian consortium for the collection and recycling of plastic packaging. It was so efficient that the flow diagram of the sorting process, defined for that first plant, is still taken as a standard of reference by all COREPLA Sorting Facilities that use automatic sensor-based sorting systems.

Montello currently has 40 AUTOSORT machines, which are mainly used in the sorting and recycling of post-consumer plastic packaging.

TOMRA’s AUTOSORT machines use spectrometry combining NIR (Near InfraRed) and VIS (Visible) sensors in a universal modular sorting system that can accurately and quickly recognise and separate a huge amount of material, according to its type and composition, to extract high-purity fractions. NIR technology is used for sorting polymers and the VIS sensors for sorting colours.

In addition to receiving plastic packaging waste from Milan and Bergamo, Montello also receives 60% of Lombardy’s plastic waste. The plastic from Milan (collected by AMSA) also comes with aluminium cans, which are therefore sorted and separated.

Sorting is performed by rollers, separators and suction units and, above all, by the high-resolution NIR (infrared) sensors of TOMRA's AUTOSORT machines installed along 6 different lines: materials are sorted by type of polymer and, in the case of PET liquid containers, also by colour, at a speed of 3 m/s. The extracted secondary raw material is then separated into: flakes of PET (Polyethylene terephthalate) from beverage bottles; granules of HDPE (high-density polyethylene) from bottles for liquids such as detergents, and granules of LDPE (low-density polyethylene) and mixed polyolefins, from carrier bags and film-type packaging.

The secondary raw materials are then sold to produce new wrapping and packaging materials, objects, containers, building material, vases and other plastic items. There is also one finished product that is made by Montello: dimpled geomembrane, used as an insulating layer in the construction industry.

At this facility, 80% of plastic is transformed into secondary raw materials, 20% into secondary solid fuel (used as a coke substitute at cement works and blast furnaces). Nothing is sent to landfills.

"Of the technologies used in our production system, the solutions provided by TOMRA ensure high yield and satisfaction" said Angelo Giavazzi, Technical Production Manager at Montello S.p.A.

The facility ranks first among COREPLA centres in Italy in terms of the amount of material processed each year and sorting efficiency (performance). This is also thanks to the cutting edge technology of TOMRA Sorting Recycling.

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**About TOMRA Sorting Recycling**

TOMRA Sorting Recycling designs and manufactures sensor-based sorting technologies for the global recycling and waste management industry. Over 4,900 systems have been installed in 50 countries worldwide.

Responsible for developing the world’s first high-capacity near infrared (NIR) sensor for waste sorting applications, TOMRA Sorting Recycling remains an industry pioneer with a dedication to extracting high purity fractions from waste streams that maximize both yield and profits.

TOMRA Sorting Recycling is part of TOMRA Sorting Solutions which also develops sensor-based systems for sorting, peeling and process analytics for the food, mining and other industries.
TOMRA Sorting is owned by Norwegian company TOMRA Systems ASA, which is listed on the Oslo Stock Exchange. Founded in 1972, TOMRA Systems ASA has a turnover around €750m and employs over 3,500 people.

For more information on TOMRA Sorting Recycling visit [www.tomra.com/recycling](http://www.tomra.com/recycling) or follow us on [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company-beta/123801), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/TOMRARecycling) or [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/TOMRA-Sorting-Recycling-183257172165234/).