

## Wamgroup celebrates 50th anniversary, opens technological research center



In mid-June, Wamgroup celebrated its 50th anniversary and opened a bulk solids technological research center at its headquarters in Modena, Italy. The company invited employees, local dignitaries, and industry participants to attend the center's anniversary and grand opening festivities, which included speeches, learning opportunities, and a celebration of the company's 50 years of achievement.

The center will research and develop industrial products, including studying and analyzing bulk solids as well as materials for use in environmental technologies. The site includes a research laboratory, a training center, and a permanent exhibition of bulk-solids-related equipment and technologies. The company's ultimate goal is for the center to become a meeting place to train young industry professionals from around the world.



Wamgroup owner, Vainer Marchesini (above), speaking to the crowd.

In addition to company personnel, the president of the Emilia-Romagna region of Italy and the mayors of Modena and surrounding Modenese lowland municipalities attended the ceremonies. Following the ribbon cutting, celebrants toured the center and attended symposiums on a variety of current industry technology topics related to the company's operations, including nanofiber filter media, polymer engineering, concrete recycling, wastewater purification, and reducing farming-related air, water, and chemical pollution.



(Above, left, and top left) Exhibits at Wamgroup's new technological research center allow visitors to learn more about bulk solids processing equipment.

Wamgroup now employs more than 2,100 people, and the anniversary celebration also included a family day for them. Their activities included a guided tour of the factory; a speech by company founder and president, Vainer Marchesini; videos from the group's manufacturing plants worldwide; and other entertainment.

Wamgroup began in 1968 in Italy with Wam, now one of the group's manufacturing divisions. to meet the needs of the concrete industry. That industry's growth resulted from the Italian building boom of the 1960s, during which manufacturers with concrete-batching plants created considerable demand for cement screw conveyors. Those were Wam's first products and contained founder Marchesini's innovative invention of a single casing for a screw conveyor's shaft seals, end bearings, and gears.

Marchesini soon applied his technology in other industries, and today, 50 years later, the company designs and manufactures — among other items — screw conveyors, dust collectors, and intercepting valves for powders and granular materials. The company manufactures under 15 different brands and has established and controls more than 50 foreign trading subsidiaries around the world.

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In 1968 — 50 years ago — Vainer Marchesini decided that he needed to begin his own company. He started with one employee, himself, and today his worldwide operation is comprised of 2,100-plus employees, 20 manufacturing plants, and more than 200 patents. This past July, Wamgroup celebrated the anniversary and opened a new technological research center (above).



After two days of educating employees and invited guests from around the world, the company's Italy-based workers were invited to a celebration. More than 1,300 people attended.



The company invited many of its employees from around the world, as well as select members of the press. Rich Cress (above, center), publisher emeritus of *Powder and Bulk Engineering*, journeyed to Modena, Italy, to witness the celebration firsthand.