



International Agricultural
Machinery Exhibition

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EIMA International: Cutting-Edge Mechatronics for Farmers

Mechatronics, which studies how to combine mechanics, electronics and hydraulic power systems in making automatic control devices, is one of the main areas of research and innovation these days, not least because it is seen as offering new ways of optimising products and industrial applications in terms of efficiency, ergonomics and safety.

In mechatronics, the electronic systems are integrated directly into the device which can thus use this inbuilt programming to adapt to changes in the external environment – and the same care to integrate all aspects of the device is also applied to hydraulic and electro-mechanical components.

At this year's edition of EIMA International, mechatronics has been one of the buzz words, thanks to the Mechatronics Club grouping a number of companies belonging to Reggio Emilia's industrialists' association and Comacomp, the UNACOMA association representing components manufacturers. The two organisations held an EIMA forum yesterday mechatronics in the design of agricultural equipment.

Opening the debate, Comacomp President Giuseppe Barricelli stressed how components manufacture, a sector in strong expansion to which EIMA International devotes a special section, EIMA Components, must move away from thinking in terms of single machine parts to a future of the integrated and highly automated systems dealt with by mechatronics.

Some of Italy's leading companies in mechatronic research, development and innovation reported to the forum on their results and also discussed the synergies they have succeeded in creating with universities, National Research Council units and other public research institutes.

The president of the Mechatronics Club, Aimone Storchi, reminded the audience that the club was set up to disseminate knowledge of mechatronic research and applications, with the idea "not only of activating effective synergies between the members to promote scientific research in mechatronics, but also to facilitate the propagation of information on the most advanced technology available on the market."

He added that organising the forum at "one of the most important fairs for the Club's members" was also designed to bring professionals up to date on the "advantages deriving from the use of mechatronic systems in designing and building agricultural machines of the most recent generation."

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Cap. Soc. € 52.000,00
C.F./P.IVA 04227291004
R.E.A. di Bologna n. 408195
A sole-partner company
subject to management
and coordination by the
Unacoma Association
www.unacoma.it

Bologna, November 14, 2008

PRESS RELEASE