



## THE DIGITAL AUTOMATION LAB OPENS IN REGGIO EMILIA: A CENTER FOR MANUFACTURING INNOVATION CREATED BY COMAU AND FONDAZIONE REI

- Comau has made innovative solutions available to the lab to support local companies in the transition to Industry 4.0
- The lab features the MATE-XT exoskeleton and a demonstrative assembly line integrated with digital manufacturing technologies, 4.0 logistics and collaborative robotics
- The Digital Automation Lab also offers consulting and training services in the field of enterprise digitalization and smart manufacturing

**Turin, October 11, 2021** – The DAL - Digital Automation Lab, formed from the partnership between Comau and Fondazione REI (Reggio Emilia Innovazione) part of Unindustria Reggio Emilia, was inaugurated today in Reggio Emilia. Combining Comau's long experience in the field of industrial innovation with REI Foundation's deep knowledge of the local entrepreneurial structure, the Digital Automation Lab, which is part of the Digital District created by Unindustria Reggio Emilia, aims to support the technological and process transformation of local companies, to accompany them in the transition to Industry 4.0.

Inside the center, companies can learn about and experience the latest automation solutions developed by Comau for the Smart Factory, understand their potential to optimize production processes with the advice of Comau managers and participate in targeted training activities. There is a specific space dedicated to the MATE-XT exoskeleton, where visitors can try, with the support of Comau product managers, the innovative wearable robotics solution for the upper limbs that was developed to assist operators as they work by reducing physical fatigue. The only wearable exoskeleton on the market with EAWS (Ergonomic Assessment Work-Sheet) certification, MATE-XT contributes to a 27% increase in work precision during overhead tasks and a 10% increase in execution speed, while reducing shoulder muscle activity and perceived exertion by 30%.

Comau has also developed a model assembly line for Fondazione REI, which allows companies to test digital manufacturing technologies and processes, logistics 4.0 and collaborative robotics, in order to observe firsthand the advantages and implementation possibilities. The line integrates multiple Comau technologies, including the Vir.GIL virtual assistant, which guides the operator in the correct execution of picking and positioning of





the pieces; the Agile1500 autonomous mobile robot, which transports materials towards the assembly station; the Racer 5-COBOT collaborative robot integrated with a vision system made by Fondazione REI and based on open libraries, which selects the parts to be assembled and works in close contact and in total safety with the operator; and the in.GRID digital platform, which integrates the systems to collect and analyze machine and process data, thus managing and monitoring the correct execution of the workflow.

Next to the Digital Automation Lab, the Human & Technology Training Center has been set up where companies can take refresher courses on the technologies present in the Lab and receive training on business digitization and the management of manufacturing 4.0 processes.

Duilio Amico, Marketing Director of Comau said, *“With the creation of the new Digital Automation Lab in Reggio Emilia, Comau confirms its commitment to support Italian companies in the acquisition of technological innovation and processes required by Industry 4.0. The collaboration with strategic entities within the local entrepreneurial structure, such as Fondazione REI, allows us to get to know regional companies in greater depth, including their production and training requirements, such that we can support them with increasingly advanced smart manufacturing solutions tailored to their needs.”*

Fausto Mazzali, President of Fondazione REI, added, *“The Digital Automation Lab, a result of the partnership with such an international reference in the field of industrial automation as Comau, allows Fondazione REI to support SMEs and local businesses in their path toward technological and digital innovation, with increasingly effective and challenging proposals and activities. Inside the center, in addition to a demonstration area, there is a training space where companies can improve their skills in the use of technologies for Factory 4.0 and evaluate how to improve their work processes with the support of experts.”*

#### **About Comau**

Comau, a member of Stellantis, is a worldwide leader in delivering advanced industrial automation products and systems. Its portfolio includes technology and systems for electric, hybrid and traditional vehicle manufacturing, industrial robots, collaborative and wearable robotics, autonomous logistics, dedicated machining centers and interconnected digital services and products able to transmit, elaborate and analyze machine and process data. With over 45 years of experience and a strong presence within every major industrial country, Comau is helping manufacturers of all sizes in almost any industry experience higher quality, increased productivity, faster time-to-market and lower overall costs. The company's offering also extends to project management and consultancy, as well as maintenance and training for a wide range of industrial segments. Headquartered in Turin, Italy, Comau has an international network of 7 innovation centers, 5 digital hubs, 8 manufacturing plants and employs more than 9,000 people in 14 countries. A global network of distributors and partners allows the company to respond quickly to the needs of customers, no matter where they are located throughout the world. Through the training activities organized by its Academy, Comau is also committed to developing the technical and managerial knowledge necessary for companies to face the challenges and opportunities of Industry 4.0.

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