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POLITECNICO DI BARI AND COMAU ESTABLISH A LABORATORY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF INNOVATIVE PROJECTS IN INDUSTRIAL DIAGNOSTICS AND ADVANCED ROBOTICS

- The “Cognitive Diagnostics” lab is the result of a five-year agreement and will be dedicated to the study of flexible and intelligent automation solutions to meet new Industry 4.0 production needs
- Comau and the Polytechnic University of Bari will collaborate in the design of new technologies in the field of industrial diagnostics and advanced robotics

Bari, Grugliasco (Turin), December 2, 2021 – Comau and the Politecnico di Bari (Poliba) have signed a five-year agreement for the joint creation of the new “Cognitive Diagnostics public-private laboratory”, aimed at the development of innovative solutions for industrial diagnostics and advanced robotics. The collaboration, signed by Francesco Cupertino, Rector of Poliba, and Pietro Ottavis, Chief Technology Officer of Comau, provides for the use of a research and experimentation space where Comau, in synergy with the University, intends to launch projects related to artificial vision for non-invasive diagnostics and robot guidance.

The “Cognitive Diagnostics” laboratory was created to respond to the growing demand for flexible automation that is adaptable to any production context and able to make Factory 4.0 work processes more efficient through the use of enabling technologies.

In particular, the new laboratory will allow Comau to deepen the study of innovative vision systems and platforms that allow easier robot programming, thus facilitating and speeding the management and control of operators (“low code programming”). According to the agreement, in order to promote the training and professional insertion of specialized figures, Comau will collaborate with the Politecnico’s educational activities through its participation in tutoring during training and company internships. Furthermore, the laboratory represents a strategic asset thanks to the internationalization of the research paths carried out within it, as well as its adhesion to European and international projects.

The opening of the “Cognitive Diagnostics” lab is the latest step of a consolidated collaboration between Comau and the Politecnico di Bari that began in 2017 with joint research projects in the field of flexible automation, vision systems and Artificial Intelligence. To support companies in the area, in 2019, Comau also inaugurated a hub in Bari, specialized in software development for automation and digital manufacturing.

To start the lab, Comau will fund research grants, scholarships and researcher positions. The initial work team will consist of individuals contracted from the Politecnico di Bari, with the possibility to gradually increase the workforce, and will have Professor Vitoantonio Bevilacqua of Poliba as a reference.



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Initially, the activities will take place at the Comau Hub in Bari, the research laboratories for Industrial Informatics, and Automation and Robotics that are hosted within the Department of Electrical and Information Engineering at the Politecnico di Bari.

Pietro Ottavis, Chief Technology Officer of Comau, said, *“Thanks to the collaboration with Politecnico di Bari, Comau takes a further step forward in the development of strategic projects capable of bringing new value to the field of industrial research, which is essential in supporting companies in an effective and innovative way. The solutions created in the new laboratory will be integrated and tested by Comau at its customers’ premises to help them optimize production. Moreover, they will allow us to evaluate new business opportunities in Italy, as well as abroad, in a variety of sectors, from logistics and transport to renewable energy, electrification and the circular economy.”*

Francesco Cupertino, Rector of the Politecnico di Bari added, *“Since 2010, we have successfully promoted and tested initiatives aimed at the establishment of Public-Private Laboratories in areas of industrial and technological research, together with important Italian and foreign organizations and business groups. The collaboration with Comau marks the fifteenth of these laboratories, in a sector of great interest for the territory of Puglia, intelligent diagnostics and robotics. A sector for which associated research activities have been going on for years in different laboratories within the Departments of Electrical and Information Engineering and Mechanics, Mathematics and Management. With this new laboratory, we will ensure a further opportunity for our young talents to specialize in Industry 4.0, in addition to the inter-university PhD program that has been active for several years now.*

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 6 innovation centers, 5 digital hubs, 9 manufacturing plants that span 13 countries and employ more than 9,000 people. 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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