



Komatsu Utility Europe



Komatsu Utility Europe Celebrates Its 50th Anniversary

On September 17, 2013, Komatsu Utility Europe S.p.A. (KUE) held a commemoration ceremony marking the 50th anniversary of the establishment of its forerunner, F.A.I. S.p.A., in 1963. Directors from Komatsu Ltd., including President and CEO Tetsuji Ohashi, were in attendance along with directors from Komatsu Europe International N.V.

Prior to the ceremony, participants toured KUE's upgraded plant and President Ohashi delivered a congratulatory speech to all KUE employees in the shop. Thereafter, everyone moved to the internal garden and took part in a commemorative planting of olive trees, Japanese maples, cherry trees and lily magnolias, all of which symbolize Italy and Japan.



Dinner on the premises of Este Castle

An unveiling ceremony for a commemorative monument was then held at a roundabout near KUE. The monument was made from a specially processed PC05 mini excavator, the first Komatsu model manufactured in Este, and installed and presented to the city of Este, home of KUE. The ceremony was attended by Este mayor Giancarlo Piva, who unveiled the monument together with President Ohashi and KUE President Enrico Prandini.

Thanks to the hospitality of the city of Este, a dinner was held during the evening on the grounds of Este Castle and attended by F.A.I. founder Giovanni Bettanin, F.A.I.'s former presidents and top managers, and distributor representatives from Europe and North Africa. Also present was Mr. Flavio Zanonato, Minister of Economic Development, who hurried to the event after

finishing his official duties in Rome. At the dinner, the minister expressed his appreciation to Komatsu for undertaking production in Este.

Toward New Development

KUE has significantly upgraded the interior of its plant by undertaking structural reforms over the past two years.

1 Improved component supplies

- Consolidated warehouses: KUE divided its warehouses according to assembly lines and is promoting the visualization of components.
- Reduced line-side inventories: KUE introduced a train-style supply method by connecting *kanban* signboards with carts to supply only the necessary volumes when needed.
- Upgraded kits: By putting the line delivery of components into kits, only the needed components are prepared and supplied to the necessary part locations. This is effective in preventing the possibility of a wrong part being attached or forgetting to attach a part. Moreover, this also makes it easier to detect component excesses and shortages.

2 Rationalized line-side sub-assembly

- Reevaluated layouts: Space savings were realized through component supply improvements, which enable components to be placed in optimal locations. Additionally, by synchronizing some kits with carts and moving these on the lines, the distance that assemblers carry parts is significantly reduced.



President and CEO Tetsuji Ohashi of Komatsu Ltd. delivering a congratulatory speech to KUE employees

3 Realized a visually effective plant

- Installed visual information (information board)
- Directly linked with Global Hansei Operation Center in Osaka, Japan, via webcam

KUE has realized higher productivity and safer work operations. From spring 2013, KUE commenced production of PC138US-10 hydraulic excavators and plans to start production of the PC170 LC-10 in spring 2014. On the occasion of its 50th anniversary, KUE announced that the company name would become Komatsu Italia Manufacturing S.p.A. in 2014. KUE will transcend the boundaries of utilities equipment and strive for new growth as it strides toward the future.



Upgrading Plant Interior



Train-style cart for supplying parts



Sub-assembly space after rationalization



Signboards within the plant

History of Komatsu Utility Europe

1963	F.A.I. S.p.A. founded by Mr. Giovanni Bettanin in Noventa Vicentina, Italy
1973	First in the world to manufacture 4WD backhoe loader
1979	Bought a new plant in Salara to manufacture skid steer loaders
1984:	Expanded product range with the introduction of new articulated backhoe loader models
1986	Purchased a larger plant in Este and ceased production in Salara
1988	Obtained license from Komatsu to produce and sell DASH-7 range of mini excavators in Europe
1995	Changed its name to Fai Komatsu Industries S.p.A (FKI), becoming the Komatsu distributor for the Italian market, and commenced international sales network integration
1996	Komatsu acquired 100% of FKI, fully integrating the company with the Komatsu Group
2000	FKI changed its name to Komatsu Utility Europe S.p.A., reflecting its global status
2001	Introduced DASH-5 series of skid steer loaders
2004	Introduced MR-2 series of mini excavators
2005	Introduced crawler version of skid steer loaders Introduced DASH-5 series of backhoe loaders
2006	Introduced MR-6 series of midi excavators (crawler and wheeled) with short swing radius
2008	Introduced MR-3 series of mini and midi excavators Introduced new MR-8 series of midi excavators

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