

# Press

## PRESS RELEASE

**MARAZZI GROUP: the new 35-million-euro production plant investment in Casiglie, Sassuolo (MO, Italy) was inaugurated in the presence of Vasco Errani, President of the Emilia-Romagna region.**

With its two continuous technology lines that afford a production capacity of approximately 4 million square metres per year, this world-leading next-generation plant guarantees maximum production flexibility in terms of range and size while respecting the environment.

**Filippo Marazzi: "We are tackling the difficulties on the market by making new investments, beginning here in the heartland of ceramic production, which has always been the driving force behind innovation."**

A production facility opened in Sassuolo (MO) today. The new plant is owned by the Marazzi Group, world leader in the manufacture and sale of ceramic wall and floor tiles.

The ceremony was attended by Vasco Errani, President of the Emilia-Romagna region, Emilio Sabattini, President of the Province of Modena and Franco Manfredini, President of Confindustria Ceramica, who joined Filippo Marazzi, President of the Group, and Maurizio Piglione, CEO, for the cutting of the ribbon.

The new Marazzi plant is the epitome of the best, most innovative technology applied to ceramic tile manufacturing processes.

For the first time ever a plant is being dedicated to the large-scale production of porcelain slabs using so-called continuous technology for maximum flexibility and precision: being an uninterrupted process it is possible to pass from one type of ceramic tile to another according to market demand in terms of size (up to 150x150 cm), thickness, colour and decoration.

At full output the 2 lines have a quality ceramic tile production capacity of approximately 4 million square metres per year.

Construction and start-up of the new plant in Sassuolo involved the use and installation of the following:

- 7,100 cubic metres of concrete
- 1,600 metric tonnes of iron and steel
- 7 km of water pipework
- 100 km of electric cabling
- 1.5 km of ventilation ductwork
- 270,000 m<sup>3</sup>/h: the capacity of its ventilation system
- approx. 80,000 work hours

The plant is equipped with a centralized data system that involves the use of TV cameras for remote viewing of particularly critical phases and the elaboration in real time of production data, efficiency and alarm management of the plant itself.

Designed to save on energy and resources and to respect the environment, the plant is equipped with a co-generation system that allows it to produce 75% of its own electrical energy, which it uses to power the preparation phase for the raw materials, while its next-

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generation recovery systems recycle heat produced by furnaces that would otherwise be released into the atmosphere, to power the dryers and burners.

The Marazzi Group has invested over 35 million euro in this project, which are part of the general investment plan of over 90 million euro that the Group is currently pumping into its local ceramic manufacturing heartland. The aim is to maintain and further improve the technological excellence of its all-Italian processes and completion should take place within the first half of 2010.

The numerous guests in attendance at the ceremony were the Mayors of the local towns within the heartland of the ceramic industry: Luca Caselli (Sassuolo), Claudio Pistoni (Fiorano) and Raimondo Soragni (Finale Emilia), the councillors of the Emilia-Romagna region Giancarlo Muzzarelli and Duccio Campagnoli, and also regional and provincial trade union representatives and suppliers and customers of the Marazzi Group.

“The Group’s strategy has been to take swift action in facing the economic crisis head on,” explained Filippo Marazzi, “using a plan to reorganize production, made necessary by the change in the economic landscape, in conjunction with a substantial investment plan for new technologies and new products.”

“In this light,” continued Marazzi, “we thought it vital to concentrate most of the investment within the ceramic industry’s heartland so as to foster both direct and indirect practical effects for the whole area, and because we also firmly believe that, even in difficult times such as these, if you want to make innovation the main thrust behind expansion the best skills are still to be found in our own local ceramic production area.”

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The Marazzi Group is the world’s leading manufacturer of ceramic wall and floor tiles. It is a multinational concern with production sites in Italy, the USA, Russia, France and Spain, it employs over 6000 people and is sold at over 14,500 sales outlets in over 130 countries worldwide. The Group also controls direct sales outlet networks in Russia, the USA and France.

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