

OCRIM

celebrates history, innovation

More than 250 people attend its 'Wheat, Flour, and...2025' event in Turin, Italy, as company marks 80th anniversary

by Susan Reidy

Left: A panel of experts discusses the possible applications of artificial intelligence in roller mills, plansifters and purifiers.
Right: A special evening gala dinner was held at the Reggia di Venaria.

As it marked 80 years in business, Ocrim hosted more than 250 industry leaders for two days dedicated to technology, sustainability and strategic vision during its “Wheat, Flour, and...2025” event this September in Turin, Italy.

The guests from around the world heard from Alberto Antolini, chief executive officer of Ocrim, who opened the event with a recap of the key milestones in the company’s history. He emphasized how the decision to maintain production in Italy represents a concrete strategy of quality and responsibility, confirming the company’s commitment to leveraging national expertise in global markets.

Federico Vecchioni, CEO of BF SpA, which Ocrim became a shareholder of in 2015, highlighted how the collaboration brings benefits to the agri-food supply chain, with a particular focus on innovation and sustainability.

Mills of the future

A roundtable on the first day examined the possibility of artificial intelligence (AI) applications in roller mills, purifiers and plansifters. Moderated by Lorenzo Cavalli, Molini Valente SpA, and Massimo Carpanelli, Molini d’Italia International, the panel featured Ocrim experts Fabrizio Baccinelli, sales manager; Marco Galli, technological department director; Paolo Molinari, electrical and automation manager; Emanuele Bigna, production director; and Simone Pedrini, mechanical department manager.

The speakers explored how AI can become a practical tool for the miller. Advanced algorithms allow for anticipating maintenance interventions, avoiding costly plant

downtime, and for optimizing energy consumption by calibrating each phase of the production process without sacrificing product quality.

AI also supports operational planning, integrating historical and real-time data to improve machine and production flow management. The discussion also noted technology does not replace the miller’s experience, but rather enhances it, transforming data into faster, safer and more sustainable operational decisions. Ocrim’s approach combines technology, experience, and consolidated know-how to prepare mills for smarter, more predictive and sustainability-focused management.

Ocrim presented its concrete step toward digital innovation with its new ticketing portal for after-sales assistance. Carolina Ghilardi, marketing department, explained how digitalization is not just a technological tool, but a true improvement in customer experience.

Requests will be tracked in real time, with updates on the resolution status, priority management of urgent cases and the ability to consult the intervention history. The portal allows for integration of global technical support, providing for rapid and consistent responses, said Valeria Monfredini, spare parts office manager.

Strategic partnerships

Stefano Mazzini, sales and marketing director, outlined two strategic initiatives: the minority stake in Meyer Italy, the Italian subsidiary of Meyer Corp., a world leader in optical sorting machines, and the acquisition of Grespan Impianti, a Treviso-based company with more than 60





Alberto Antolini, Ocrim CEO, addresses attendees.

years of experience in the design and construction of feed mills.

Annabelle Grespan, CEO of Grespan, emphasized how both companies share core values such as listening carefully to customers and providing customized solutions.

Entrepreneurs and academics shared information on logistics in milling and agro-industrial complexes as part of a separate conference during the event.

Andrea Valente, with Molini Valente SpA, said the number of mills has decreased but production capacity has re-

mained stable thanks to efficiency. His company's facilities in Felizzano, Italy, were designed entirely by Ocrim. He noted that French soft wheat has lost market share to Eastern European wheat.

Cosimo de Sortis with Amber Srl discussed the turbulence in dry bulk maritime transport caused by the war in Ukraine, the crisis in the Red Sea, delays at the Panama Canal and new European environmental regulations.

"The result is longer lead times, higher costs and

pressure on domestic prices, with freight rates expected to rise in the coming years," he said.

Stefano Zangheri, Paglierani Srl, highlighted the role of packaging from bagging to end-of-line/palletization, including packaging. He illustrated how integrated logistics management reduces waste and increases productivity.

Riccardo Accorsi, University of Bologna, discussed sustainability and innovation, emphasizing how logistics can make the milling sector more efficient and environmentally friendly. Real-time data, digital avatars and automation — from laser-guided vehicles to smart storage — allow for waste, consumption and emissions reductions.

Ocrim also presented its 2025 corporate video combining historical and contemporary images, emphasizing how the 80th anniversary represents a new beginning. A postmark ceremony, organized by Poste Italiane, celebrated the 80th anniversary with a special postmark presented by Marta Latini and affixed by Alberto Antolini, symbolizing the link between the past and future. **WG**

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