

Progress Maschinen & Automation AG, 39042 Brixen, Italy

Successful thanks to automation: Moretta Prefabbricati invests in lattice girder machine

High quality standards and continuous investment in automation pay off: that is proven by the North Italian precast element manufacturer Moretta Prefabbricati, which is holding its ground on the domestic market with far-sightedness and courage. Following several modernisation stages, a new, fully automatic system for the flexible manufacture of lattice girders very recently went into operation. It was developed and installed by Progress Maschinen & Automation, a long-standing partner of the company.

Moretta Prefabbricati, a traditional producer of precast concrete elements from Lovero in the province of Sondrio in northern Italy, can readily be called an exemplary company: while other precast companies didn't survive the crisis, Moretta managed to hold its own successfully on the difficult Italian market thanks to high-quality products and repeated investment in automation.



Moretta Prefabbricati from Lovero in northern Italy has developed into an exemplary company in the Italian precast industry through numerous innovations and investments.

First precast concrete elements in the late 1970s

The company was founded in 1954 by Eligio Moretta, the father of the present-day owner, and initially concentrated on the manufacture of concrete masonry blocks and small concrete pipes. Production of the first wall panels began in the late 1970s when Gianmario Moretta joined the company. Ten years later the company additionally started the production of precast slabs on tilting tables.

Five-fold increase in capacity thanks pallet circulation plant

The year 2004 marked a milestone when Moretta Prefabbricati acquired a used carousel plant. This was then modernised in close co-operation with Ebawe Anlagentechnik and Progress Maschinen & Automation, both part of the Progress Group, and retrofitted amongst other things with a new turning unit and a complete control. This resulted in a five-fold increase in capacity from 200 m²/day to 1,000 m²/day. At the same time the company introduced the double-wall system as one of the first in Italy to do so.

Shuttering robot increases efficiency and quality

In 2010 the company invested in a shuttering and deshuttering robot of the type Form Master from Progress Maschinen & Automation. "The automation of this work step has not only significantly speeded up our production process and reduced personnel expenditure, it has also substantially increased the quality of our products", says Gianmario Moretta, still satisfied today.

Inefficient handling of lattice girders - modernisation necessary

The next modernisation step was looming even then: "We kept 11 different types of lattice girder in our lattice girder store so that we would be equipped for as many enquiries as possible", explains Moretta. The owner says that this system was anything but efficient. "It wasn't only the storage that was expensive, but also the waste and the time required for the placement of lattice girders with different lengths in the carousel."



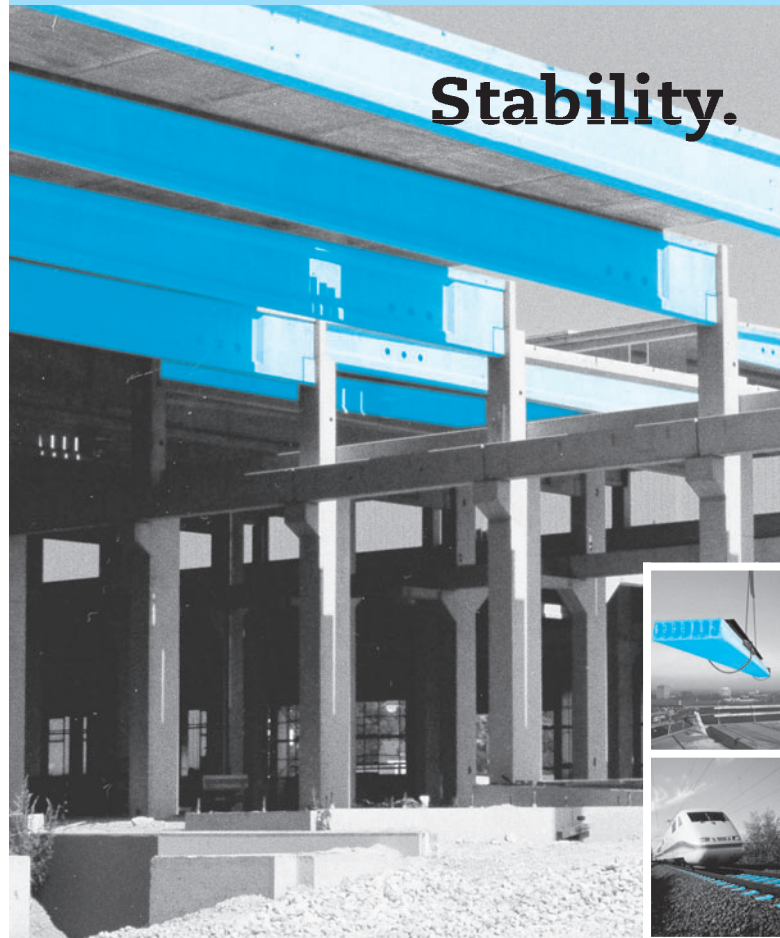
Company owner Gianmario Moretta is satisfied with the co-operation with the Progress Group: "The feeling is right. We value the reliability and quality of the machines and the know-how of the team."

Fully automatic system with infinitely adjustable diameter and height

Moretta Prefabbricati therefore decided to purchase a lattice girder welding system of the type VGA Versa, also developed by Progress Maschinen & Automation. This system enables the flexible production of lattice girders off the coil. Both the height of the lattice girder and the diameter of the wires can be adjusted infinitely during the production. This means that every product can be manufactured just in time and without time-consuming retooling. The company therefore eliminated not only the high storage costs, but also the waste. "The aspect of environmental protection is also important to us", emphasises Gianmario Moretta.

Manufacture of lattice girders up to 650 mm in height

The VGA Versa has been in action at the North Italian precast manufacturer for a few months now. Since then Moretta Prefabbricati has manufactured all lattice girders required for the production of double-walls and precast slabs with in-situ topping in-house and up to heights of 650 mm. Such high reinforcement elements have already been used in the double walls installed during the expansion of the A4 motorway near Milan.



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Max-Paul-Str. 1
88525 Dürmentingen
Germany
☎ +49 (0) 73 71/500-0
☎ +49 (0) 73 71/500-111
✉ stressing@paul.eu

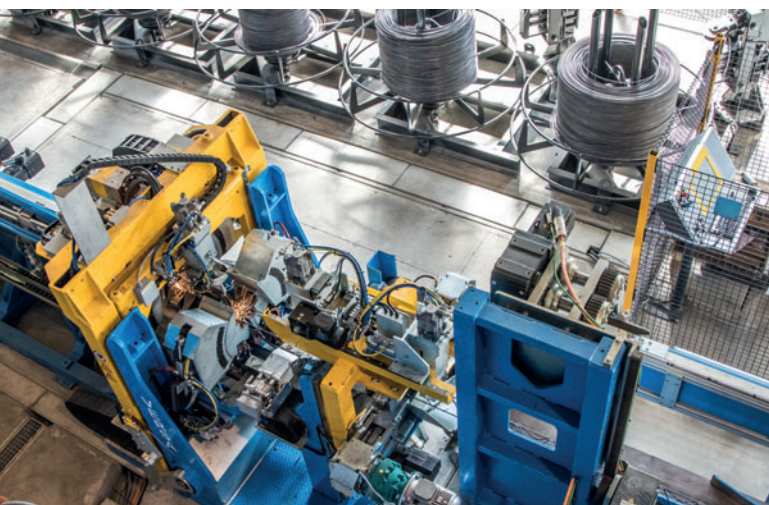




The new VGA Versa manufactures all lattice girders required for the production of double-walls and precast slabs with in-situ topping in-house and up to heights of 650 mm.



Both the height of the lattice girder and the diameter of the wires can be adjusted infinitely during the production.



The flexibility of the VGA Versa has enabled the elimination not only of the high costs for the storage of various types of bought-in lattice girders, but also of all waste.

Successful with modern technology and quality

Thanks to modern production methods, innovative products and top quality, Moretta Prefabbricati is today an established precast manufacturer in Italy. The sales markets are located for the most part in Lombardy, although the company also delivers to customers in the rest of northern Italy, Switzerland and France.

Long-standing partnership

According to Gianmario Moretta it's no coincidence that his company has co-operated closely with the Progress Group since 2004. "The feeling is right", he says. "We value the reliability and quality of the machines and the know-how of the team." There is also something else that unites the two companies: "We and Progress AG (the precast manufacturer of the Progress Group) always wanted to do things differently to the majority of the other companies by concentrating on innovation and quality." Success, according to Moretta, has proven both companies right, but a basic problem remains: "The poor product quality of many suppliers in the past has lastingly damaged the image of precast concrete elements." It's now up to the industry itself and the universities, he says, to set things straight and to convince with new and super products. ■

FURTHER INFORMATION



Moretta Prefabbricati S.n.c.
Via Nazionale 4
23030 Lovero (SO), Italy
T +39 0342 770052
F +39 0342 770097
info@morettaprefabbricati.it
www.morettaprefabbricati.it



Progress Maschinen & Automation AG
Julius-Durst-Straße 100
39042 Brixen, Italy
T + 39 0472 979100
F + 39 0472 979200
info@progress-m.com
www.progress-m.com