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Ariston Group invests in its future with an ambitious plan in Research and Development and industrial footprint

THE GROUP UNVEILS A €500 MILLION PROGRAM OF INITIATIVES IN ITALY [PERIOD 2022-2028] AND ANNOUNCES THE LAUNCH OF A STATE-OF-THE-ART WATER HEATER FACTORY DESIGNED ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE WORLD CLASS MANUFACTURING AND ENABLED BY AN INTELLIGENT DIGITAL ECOSYSTEM.

Ariston Group (Bloomberg: ARIS IM), a global leader in sustainable climate and water comfort, announces the construction of a new factory in Albacina, Italy, dedicated to the production of next-generation electric water heaters, with the ambition of becoming a European benchmark for technological and industrial excellence.

The site, covering an area of approximately 30,000 square meters, will integrate the **most advanced production technologies** to achieve a new level of performance, quality and customer service. Operated according to the **World Class Manufacturing** methodology, which puts people at the center, it will be equipped with an **intelligent digital ecosystem** developed in collaboration with Accenture and based on NVIDIA technology. Thanks to the high-fidelity **digital twin**, collaborative AI agents and intuitive interfaces, an adaptive, self-learning production environment will be created, where people and machines continuously and synergistically co-create operational excellence. The entire project has been developed with a strong focus on ESG standards, ensuring environmental sustainability, energy efficiency, and social responsibility. Once fully operational, expected by the end of 2026, the new site will replace the facility in Genga, Italy.

The investment is part of a multi-year plan worth €500 million (2022–2028) launched by the group in Italy, aimed at strengthening Research and Development in key technologies while establishing an industrial footprint to support long-term growth. On the R&D front, Ariston Group has enhanced its Agrate Brianza and Albacina centers, dedicated to **renewable solutions**, and has focused, respectively in Fabriano and Osimo, on driving innovation in **hot water solutions** and **conventional heating systems**. On the production side, instead, the group has carried out modernization initiatives at its historical sites, also bringing back to Italy high value-added manufacturing. In particular: in Albacina has been consolidated a **center of excellence for mainstream heat pumps for space heating**, which were once produced exclusively at the group's Chinese plant; in Cerreto d'Esi a new, modern production **line for premium water heaters** has been launched, which were previously manufactured in China; in Arcevia the group inaugurated its **first electronics factory**, a key element for its most advanced solutions; finally, the Osimo site – which recently received the World Class Manufacturing Silver Medal – now concentrates the production of residential and commercial boilers for the European market.

"*Ariston Group has successfully kept Italy at the center of its development, demonstrating how international growth can contribute to the well-being of the territory, without fractures. Indeed, Italy currently accounts for just over 10% of our global turnover, while nearly 40% of our industrial output is produced there,*" stated **Paolo Merloni**, Executive Chairman of Ariston Group. "*Strengthened by our roots, we are investing in the future, and I am particularly proud to announce the launch of the*

new site in Albacina: where our group was founded 95 years ago, one of Europe's most advanced water heater factories will be built".

The investment plan in Italy is consistent with the broader strategy of consolidating the industrial footprint that Ariston Group is pursuing globally.

In **Europe**, at the historic Wolf brand site in Mainburg, Germany, a new line for high-end heat pumps has come into operation, built according to World Class Manufacturing principles, while in Siegenburg a new logistics hub has been established, and also in Mainburg the new Wolf Campus – dedicated to technician training and to Research and Development in collaboration with the Deggendorf Institute of Technology – will soon been inaugurated. Additionally, in Serbia, in Niš, a new plant to produce indirect cylinders for the hot water sector is being launched.

In **Asia**, industrial and product development capacity has been strengthened in the key markets of Vietnam, Indonesia and India. In **Africa**, the new industrial site in Cairo, Egypt, is now fully operational, producing water heaters for the African and Middle Eastern markets. Finally, in **North America**, a commercial joint venture in the water heater market has recently been signed with Lennox – a recognized leader in the US market – supported by the industrial strengthening of the Saltillo site in Mexico.

Pierluigi Astorino, Chief Operating Officer of Ariston Group, commented: *"Our industrial activities are the driving force behind our vision of Sustainable Comfort for everyone, and our ambition is to be pioneers in innovating production processes. Our first investment is always in people: through their commitment and expertise, they make the group's growth possible. Thanks to a solid and integrated network of state-of-the-art sites, a digitalized supply chain, and ongoing dialogue with local stakeholders, we are able to serve our customers effectively, efficiently and resiliently".*

Ariston Group

Ariston Group (Bloomberg: ARIS IM) is a global leader in sustainable climate and water comfort, listed on Euronext Milan. In 2024 the group reported 2.6 billion-euro revenues, with over 10,000 employees, direct presence in 40 countries in 5 continents, 29 production sites and 28 research and development centers. The group demonstrates its commitment to sustainability through renewable and high-efficiency solutions, including heating heat pumps, water heating heat pumps, hybrids, domestic ventilation, air handling, electric components and solar thermal systems, while continuously investing in technological innovation, digitalization and advanced connectivity solutions. The group operates under global strategic brands Ariston, Elco and Wolf, and brands such as Calorex, NTI, HTP, Atag, Brink, Chromagen, Racold, as well as Thermowatt and Ecoflam in the components and burners business.

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