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In 2015, Italy improved exports (+27.5%) and imports (+30.8%) of road paving technologies (source: SaMoTer-Prometeia Outlook).

**Verona, 12 September 2016** - After years of general and widespread crisis for the Italian construction machinery industry, 2015 at last saw a turnaround – even for road infrastructure technologies. In Italy, rollers, compactors and mixers for bitumen closed the year with exports worth 113.2 million euros and imports at 22 million euros, respectively up by 27.5% and 30.8% over the previous year's results.

This emerges from data analysed by **SaMoTer Outlook**, the construction equipment outlook set up by Veronafiore in collaboration with **Prometeia** and the information input of **Unacea**.

The most important upcoming event for the bitumen sector is **Asphaltica**, the show highlighting road paving technologies and solutions, safety and road infrastructures scheduled alongside the 30th edition of **SaMoTer**, the triennial landmark event in Italy for earth moving, site and building machinery, and **Transpotec Logitec**, the show dealing with transport and logistics, all scheduled at Veronafiore 22-25 February 2017.

Asphaltica, organised by Veronafiore and **SITEB**, the Italian Road Asphalt Bitumen Association, will be an ideal opportunity for discovering the latest innovations in the field presented by major international brands. These include European giants **Ammann**, **Marini** and **Wirtgen Group**, which have already confirmed attendance as exhibitors.

The Italian scenario seems to be achieving gradual consolidation of the recovery: in the first four months of 2016, imports of specialist asphalt machinery came to more than 7.1 million euros in turnover, up by 46.4% over the first quarter 2015.

This recovery was driven by new investments in construction: +2% in 2016, according to Prometeia estimates. More specifically, the recovery is being helped along by measures to re-launch public works implemented by the Government. In this regard, the 2016 Stability Law (budget) saw a return to positive dynamics for public expenditure in assets and envisaged the abolition of the internal Stability Pact for local councils.

After a good performance in 2015, January-April 2016 saw a setback for exports of machinery made in Italy (-10.4%), coming to 36.3 million euros - above all because of downturns in orders from the Middle East and North Africa. On the contrary, positive signals were seen on traditional markets such as Western Europe, North America and even Russia, up from 1.3 to 3.8 million euros (+184%).

Asphaltica 2017 will display specific products and technologies for road building and maintenance focusing on maximum efficiency, lower costs and environmental sustainability "because roads belong to everybody and citizens are particularly aware of deterioration, driving safety and the environment in which they live every day", says **Stefano Ravaoli**, **Director of SITEB** (which will also coordinate the impressive programme of workshops and high-profile business conferences ensuring training credits for engineers and sector professionals).

"As ever, Ammann will attend the appointment in Verona and present models across its entire road range: compactors, surface finishers, plant and the light equipment line," said **Michele Turrini**, **Sales Director of Ammann Italy**. "We believe SaMoTer-Asphaltica is a fundamental appointment, not only for the domestic market but also a prestigious showcase for North Africa, the Middle East and Balkan countries. Ammann will also organize a workshop during the event with special content focusing on new technologies."

"Asphaltica 2017 we see us illustrate the full range of equipment for bituminous asphalt," said **Alberto Montanari**, **Director General of Marini**. "The event will be yet another opportunity to meet clients and develop effective and reliable solutions capable of meeting even the most demanding requirements. Marini will provide the energy, experience and expertise it has acquired over the years to tackle issues of current interest such as innovation, flexibility, recycling solutions and cutting operating costs related to conglomerate plant. Innovation will be the focus of a workshop we will hold on Thursday 23 February."

**Mario Spinelli**, **Managing Director of Wirtgen Machinery** says that "the Wirtgen Group will present its full range of road construction and maintenance products at Asphaltica 2017: from the aggregate processing industry (Kleemann) to asphalt mixing plants (Benninghoven), application (Voegelé), compaction of asphalt and road beds (Hamm) through to milling, recycling of paving materials and soil stabilization (Wirtgen). This is because the Wirtgen Group has always had high regard for care and attention to customers and firmly believes in this kind of very specific event tailored perfectly to the sector."