

WORLD'S FIRST CENTRE TO RECYCLE HYGIENE PRODUCTS OPENS IN ITALY

Groundbreaking Waste Recycling Plant Inaugurated Today in Spresiano, Italy

Brussels, 21 July 2025 - A newly opened recycling centre powered by [i-Foria](#)'s cutting-edge technology is redefining how Absorbent Hygiene Product (AHP) waste is recovered and reused.

Making up around 4% of municipal solid waste, diapers and sanitary napkins were previously believed to be impossible to recycle. It is estimated that in Italy, every year, three landfills are created, filled, and closed to treat waste from AHP.

"Today we celebrate an important milestone for Italy, the world's first demonstration plant for the recycling of absorbent hygiene products. This innovation represents a strategic result by reducing waste, by launching a new value chain that can be replicated across Europe, and by anticipating the goals of the Green Deal."

- Antonio Decaro, Chair of the ENVI Committee of the European Parliament.

The Spresiano demonstration plant, with a processing capacity of 100 kg per batch, serves as a pivotal testbed for scaling up this transformative solution.

Thanks to the new plant, it is now possible for a full recovery of high-quality secondary raw materials, including plastics and absorbent cellulose, to be reused in new manufacturing processes.

"This plant is proof that our country is capable of transforming and innovating with sustainable industrial solutions that create environmental, economic, and social value. It brings responsibility and motivates us to move forward with pragmatism and ambition toward a true model of circular economy development."

- Vannia Gava, Italy's Deputy Minister for the Environment



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Funded by the [ICARUS](#) project, the plant will also validate the recycling and upcycling of cellulosic materials recovered from urban wastewater treatment plants operated by [Acciona Agua](#). These materials are destined for high-value applications in the construction, chemical, and technological sectors. The project will explore AI-powered digital platforms to optimise operations and ensure consistent quality of the recovered resources.

Operating under the strict standards of the [Italian End of Waste decree](#), the process ensures low energy consumption and high efficiency, paving the way for an environmentally sound and economically viable circular solution.

The Spresiano facility will continue to refine the AHP recycling process, with a focus on maximising energy efficiency and enhancing the quality of recovered materials. It will also be open to visits from stakeholders across the value chain, including waste management operators, industry partners, and potential investors exploring the adoption of this technology.

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About ICARUS

[ICARUS](#) aims to provide technological support to energy-intensive and construction industries for the transition to more sustainable and digital processes in a business model for successful market implementation.

ICARUS will upcycle waste material resources of most selected process industries to achieve circular and sustainable process industries overcoming their final application in construction sector. This project will accelerate the process industry uptake and contribute towards the developed education and skills activities and outcomes in this area as well as linking all value chain from industrial players recyclers, public authorities, and standardisation actors.



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