



## Comacchio's 2024 Open House

On 17 and 18 October, Comacchio's production facility in Castello di Godego was the setting for the Italian rig manufacturer's Open House, where it presented the latest additions to the MC and CH lines of foundation equipment and advancements in the geotechnical and geothermal drilling equipment

*Above: A special ceremony was held when an MC 14 with the serial number 5000 was handed over to Comacchio's longstanding Swiss distributor, Kuchler Technik AG*

**W**elcomed in the generous spaces of the new production facility in Castello di Godego, inaugurated in 2016, more than 1000 visitors coming from 40 countries were able to see an exhibition of over 20 rigs, representative of the entire Comacchio offering, which ranged from compact and lightweight drilling rigs for soil investigations and environmental drilling, to those for micropiles and anchoring applications, and included piling machines weighing over 90t, without forgetting the machines for water well and geothermal.

### CH 850 DEBUT

The star of the two days was the new large-diameter piling rig –

the CH 850, which made its public debut at the event.

Designed to cope with the most demanding jobs, the latest addition to the Comacchio range of piling machines is positioned in continuity with the CHF 900, which was presented at bauma in 2022. This new rig offers a maximum power of 405kW (543hp), with a maximum torque of 360kNm and an operating weight of 98t. The sum of these features places the CH 850 at the top of the sector for the unmatched balance in torque and weight offered by this machine.

The Open House also provided the opportunity to celebrate the delivery of the Comacchio drill rig with the serial number 5000. The powerful MC 14 rig,

specially decorated with a grey-and-red carbon fibre coating, was handed over to Comacchio's longstanding Swiss distributor, Kuchler Technik AG, in a festive ceremony.

### LIVE DEMONSTRATIONS

During the two days, a range of Comacchio rigs were at work inside the Demo Area, an innovation at this Open House, which was set up to allow visitors to experience first-hand the features of some of the best-sellers of the company's range, such as the MC 22, the CH 450 and the GEO 909 GT.

Among these, the MC 22, an iconic rig in the Comacchio range, exhibited in its latest version (so-called Gen8), the

result of a meticulous restyling that has allowed for further improvements to its performance in terms of efficiency, versatility, safety and sustainability.

The new features introduced with this version are the new, more powerful engines (180 and 205kW), a better performing hydraulic system equipped with modern electronic control devices and a new line of multifunction rotary heads, offering extreme flexibility in the various configurations.

Also noteworthy is the new interface of the machine control panel and the new Comacchio radio control, which is equipped with a display providing engine data and the main parameters of the machine. Both devices were developed internally by Comacchio with a view to greater ergonomics and user-friendliness.

The restyling was carried out with particular attention to aspects related to efficiency and sustainability. The innovations introduced have reduced fuel consumption and noise, and, not less importantly, from an environmental point of view, the volume of hydraulic oil used to operate the machine. The careful selection of components and the robustness and reliability of the design contribute to making the MC 22 a machine that can be effectively reconditioned, allowing its life cycle to be extended.

### MC 5 LR LAUNCH

Among the other new products presented at the Open House, smaller in terms of size and weight but not in terms of technology, is the new MC 5 LR. A machine created to meet the needs of customers operating in the foundation sector, but developed with a multipurpose perspective, allowing its use in a series of areas that go beyond the traditional fields of application of Comacchio machines.

The MC 5 LR is an agile and compact tracked unit, which can be effectively used both for consolidation and earth retention

works (using self-drilling bar systems) and for so-called “drill-and-blast” applications in quarry/construction sites. The machine has been equipped with an oscillating and extendable carriage and a special articulation based on a double knee-type boom equipped with a roll-over system to allow this flexibility of use.

A special mast structure made entirely of aluminium that can be equipped with different types of hydraulic drifters is also featured on the MC 5 LR. Everything about the rig has been optimised for top hammer applications, from the onboard compressor to the dust collection system up to the particular configuration of the new radio control, adapted for this particular type of use.

The display of foundation equipment also included several models of piling machines, from the agile and versatile CH 150 to dedicated CFA rigs such as the CHF 500 and CHF 900, while the multipurpose units CH 320 and CH 450 stayed busy in the demo area.

The CH models were standing side by side with the vast selection of micropile and anchoring rigs that ranged from limited access rigs, such as the MC 4D and MC 8D, to large, long-stroke models, such as the MC 30, on display in an impressive 39m high jet grouting configuration, without forgetting the robust and powerful MC 12P and MC 14.

### GEOTECHNICAL OPTIONS

The Open House also offered Comacchio the opportunity to display its latest geotechnical, water well and geothermal drilling technology advancements. The display of geotechnical rigs ranged from the compact and lightweight GEO 205 to the 20t pull GEO 900, equipped with a 900rpm rotary and two onboard pumps, and also included the restyled GEO 405, featuring a more powerful 75kW engine.

The recent upgrade of the GEO 405's motorisation allows for installing a wider selection

of rotary heads (including high-speed rotary heads) that can be operated simultaneously with heavy-duty flush pumps. The restyling of this core model of the Comacchio geotechnical range has also involved an upgrade of the power pack, which has been re-engineered to adapt universally to various engine models and control panel versions and has become more accessible for inspection and maintenance purposes.

### GEOTHERMAL INSTALLATIONS

Two cutting-edge rigs, the MC 15P GT and the GEO 909 GT, showed how Comacchio is redefining what is possible in small- and medium-sized residential and commercial geothermal installations. A true workhorse for the jobsite, despite the small footprint, the MC 15P GT is equipped with a 205kW CAT engine and a special articulation system that was developed based on micropile machines. It offers the ideal solution for demanding projects in tight spaces, thanks to the Comacchio double-head system delivering up to 3700daNm torque on the lower head.

The patented GEO 909 GT, much admired during the live demonstrations at the demo area, proved to be a highly efficient solution for the hands-free handling of rods and casings in geothermal applications, now even more attractive thanks to the ability to utilise 4m rods for open-hole drilling. ▼

*Comacchio's Open House event gave the company an opportunity to showcase its entire range*

