



## Tanning Tech 2015 in Milan

Despite some initial doubts the decision to move this fair from the highly successful Bologna venue to the Milan Rho exhibition complex attracted substantial support from Italian and international visitors. Significantly, virtually all the Italian tannery equipment companies took up stands in the halls of the new facility although some international businesses were absent. Major Italian builders of tannery machinery showed their current products mostly with enhanced performance and constructions and in a few cases with innovations.

Italian machinery producers, along with providers of engineering attachments, accessories, consumables and engineering services, presented their products, accounting for a total of 50 stands.

From outside Italy there were seven exhibitors: German companies took four stands, French companies two and one from Spain. The Hueni Group is counted as Italian as they have an Italian company. (At Tanning Tech 2013 there were 26 exhibitors from outside Italy. Press and association stands have not been included in the count). ☉

An innovative machine to remove dust from the grain side of leather has been introduced by finishing machinery design and construction company Gemata.

The dust is removed prior to finishing without applying air suction. The leather is first spread on an antistatic conveyor followed by a high adhesive cleaning conveyor which captures dust and other small particles. Remarkably, even the finest dust still held by the static charge is picked up. A washing device is employed to thoroughly clean this conveyor and which also applies a grinding device to regenerate its adhesive surface.

The machine, named Starclean, can be set to a throughput speed of up to 15 metres per minute whilst achieving high quality performance. A control panel with LCD display is provided to set functions.

The basic machine is equipped with a manually fed input and a separate conveyor at the outfeed end for manual take off or for direct transfer to a spray line. When installed with a linked rollcoater line an extraction and transfer

conveyor defined as a Puller is available as an extra attachment. The structure of the Starclean is in solid welded construction and has a working width of 3400mm. Electric power requirement is quoted as 3.5 kW. ☉

*The development of the system is based on a patent obtained from Equitan as well as a Gemata patent.*

