

Press Release, April 27, 2016

## **MOBILITY AND ASSISTANCE IN THE ERA OF SMART CITIES**

**The integration of automobile, spare parts and garage sectors as a result of digital technology**

### **AUTOPROMOTEC CONFERENCE-STATE OF THE INDUSTRY 2016**

**“Workshop 4.0: The revolution of connectivity and service” Bologna, 9-10 June, Opificio Golinelli**

New horizons are quickly opening up for the garage and spare parts industry, and Autopromotec, the biennial international exhibition of automotive equipment and aftermarket products, performs the role of promoter by hosting the AUTOPROMOTEC CONFERENCE – State of the Industry 2016, a two-day meeting convening entrepreneurs, managers and technicians of the sector that will outline in detail Workshop 4.0, where digital innovation and connectivity are the key concepts.

The date is set for 9-10 June in Bologna, the capital of Motor Valley and one of the leading automotive districts in Italy. Venue for the conference is the Opificio Golinelli, the citadel for knowledge and culture and pride of the city. The location has been selected for a debate that will involve the highest experts in the sector, executives and managers who will bring the experience of important international industrial groups and several ‘visionaries’ to give a look into a future not too far in the distance.

Included among them will be Carlo Ratti, Professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston and Director of the MIT Senseable City Lab, who will be addressing the conference the first day of the sessions, 9 June, on the subject of smart cities. Cities of today allow us to obtain an enormous quantity of information thanks to digital services, such as cloud computing, big data, open data, RFID technology and new Apps. The data recorded in real time via these technologies help us to utilize road infrastructure more efficiently: there are already self-driving cars or networks that prevent us from wasting time and fuel when looking for a parking space. Self-driving vehicles will have an incredible impact on city life and will eliminate the distinction between vehicles for public and private transport. “Your” automobile may give you a ride to work in the morning and then, instead of waiting for you while parked, can give a ride to someone else in your family – or to anyone else in your neighbourhood, your social media community or in your city.

Smart cities will have a very strong impact on the system of transport and mobility of goods and persons and will undoubtedly contribute to modifying the models of utilization of the auto, no longer necessarily ‘private’ but rather ‘shared’. In this scenario, maintaining the efficiency of vehicles will take on growing importance and with it the role of garages. It is fundamental to increase the availability of information and raise awareness on these issues along with the technical skills of auto repair professionals, whose role is destined to transform as the spread of predictive maintenance techniques, internet of things, remote control, WI-FI networks, automation and sensors continues.

Autopromotec Conference – State of the Industry 2016 will stand out as the most authoritative event in Italy dedicated to automotive equipment and aftermarket products. It offers a networking opportunity involving major players in the sector on both a national and international level.

The conference will also gather together entrepreneurs, managers, technicians, with panels and discussions on national and international *best practices*, as well as analyses of scenarios in order to grasp the evolution of technological trends, business dynamics and the expectations of the market.

#### **Info for the media**

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