

Caab opens its new fruit and vegetable market

In April 2016 a "new life" began for Caab, the Bologna wholesale market, which has finally finished its transfer to the new facilities following a year's work to turn itself into NAM (Nuova Area Mercatale or new market area), the

name of the new fruit and vegetable market. "Because of its logistical and operational concept, NAM is the most modern wholesale market in Europe, with over 50,000 m² of floor space and offices that are completely eco-sustainable from the energy point of view, equipped with the latest computing, anti-seismic and fire protection technologies," explained the CEO, Alessandro Bonfiglioli. From the logistics point of view, the new Caab has a central platform that can simultaneously load/unload 29 HGVs, making it possible to move from the traditional "push" goods handling to a "pull" supply chain, in other words, one that is driven by "deliverability" to clients. Energy self-sufficiency is ensured by a 100,000 m² photovoltaic installation to provide a power supply of 11 million kW/hour, the biggest in Europe, but the entire area is low-consumption: Wi-Fi, optic fibre, LED lighting, heated by heat pumps with 50 inlets all around the perimeter, and 10,000 m² of new low-energy



coldstores. In the interior, a 400 m gallery houses the 16 wholesale companies, 5 cooperatives (with a membership of 290 companies), 100 farming businesses with direct sales operations, 2000 retail and wholesale clients and 2 commodity exchanges that move 24,000

tonnes of fruit and vegetables a year for a sales figure of €400 million. There will also be offices, laboratories that can carry out 100,000 chemical and microbiological analyses a year and all the banking and other services for the operators, while the area previously occupied by the old market, around 80,000 m², will house FICO (Fabbrica Italiana Contadina), Oscar Farinetti's new agrifood theme park. "The materialisation of this facility is the prelude to a new strategy that sees the fruit and vegetable market as the centre of a new sustainable agriculture and a new sustainable logistics and allows us to gain a wider view of the rest of the world at less cost," concluded Bonfiglioli. Caab, the Bologna Agri-Food Centre, is where, every day, 19 wholesalers, 5 cooperatives (representing 290 companies) and 100 farming businesses sell all the fruit and vegetables grown in the area to nearly 2,000 wholesaler and retailer clients through three commodity exchanges.