

The Valve Industry Convened For The Sixth Valve Industry Think Tank

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The conference delved into the topics of training, work-life balance and employability with regard to the attractiveness of companies for Generation Z candidates

The Call for Papers was opened for the contents of the IVS 2026 scientific programme, which aims to further increase the quality of the opportunities and topics for debate

Bergamo (Italy) - The sixth edition of the **IVS Valve Industry Think Tank**, the discussion event that gathered the leading players in the industrial valve industry, has taken place at the auditorium of Confindustria Bergamo within the *Kilometro Rosso* Innovation District. The event was promoted by **IVS - Industrial Valve Summit**, the most important international event dedicated to industrial valve technologies and flow control solutions.

The conference was held in collaboration with **VALVEcampus**, the association for the training of Italian industrial valve manufacturers, a sector that represents excellence in the European competitive context. Almost 4 out of 10 Oil&Gas valves produced in Europe by 2022 are Made in Italy, where the sector's production value is close to 30 billion (+12% compared to 2021). Numbers realised within an ecosystem of 239 companies (over 90% of turnover is realised within a radius of 200 km from the province of Bergamo) employing over 10,000 people.

IVS Valve Industry Think Tank, which developed around the theme "Designing the Future: Challenges and Opportunities for the Valve Supply Chain", explored the challenges and opportunities shaping the industrial valve supply chain, with a strong focus on energy transition and sustainability.

The conference was opened by **Luca Pandolfi**, Confindustria Bergamo, Project Manager of IVS - Industrial Valve Summit, who talked about the objectives and previews of the upcoming Summit. Organised by Confindustria Bergamo and Promoberg, the event will be back again at the Fiera di Bergamo for its sixth edition, scheduled from 19 to 21 May 2026. Keith Johnston, Vice Chairman of the Digital Transformation Committee of the International Association of Oil&Gas Producers (IOGP), analysed the strategic importance and benefits of Material Digital Passport (MDP) and its significant innovation in materials and equipment's tracking, management and optimization during the lifecycle in Oil&Gas industry. **Marc Schmidt**, International Sales of AUMA Rester GmbH & Co. KG, explored the benefits of efficient data management through Smart MOV systems. Then **Marco Moiola**, Business Development Manager at S3P Italy, and **Vittorio Bordiga**, Senior Engineer at S3P Italy, discussed the evolutionary wear solutions of S3P technologies for stainless steels in Oil&Gas application.

The programme then proposed the panel "Present and future of the labour market", which analysed topics related to training, work-life balance and employability with reference to the attractiveness of companies in the eyes of Generation Z candidates. Taking the stage were **Marco Manzoni**, Vice President of Confindustria Bergamo with responsibility for Education, and **Massimiliano Medri**, Vice President Staffing of Adecco Italia Spa.

"The issue of human resources is crucial to sustain a manufacturing system that is among the most advanced in Europe," said Marco Manzoni. "However, even in our area, companies are experiencing, in a context of demographic decline, an increasing difficulty in attracting and keeping people and in finding suitable profiles, with a particular criticality for technical profiles. Our approach is multi-level to explore all possible avenues. We are working on the one hand, to increase the capacity of companies to dialogue with those entering the world of work for the first time and who are often bearers of different visions than in the past, with a greater focus on work-life balance, but are at the same time looking for values to share. On the other hand, there is a great investment in training, to help reduce the strong mismatch of skills, emphasising technical training and in particular the ITS segment, which is more in line with the needs of companies. The Oil&Gas sector is very indicative in this sense, since it is an area of excellence that expresses high technical and technological requirements, which we need to be able to intercept more and more to link them with the training chain."

Francesco Apuzzo, President of VALVEcampus, introduced the Scientific Committee and the guidelines of the IVS 2026 scientific programme, officially opening the Call for Papers, which will close on 31 October 2025. The macro topics around which the IVS Academy roundtables and content will focus are: development and innovation in the field of hydrogen; applications in Artificial Intelligence; additive manufacturing; critical issues in control valves; specificities of subsea valve actuation; surface treatment technologies; fugitive emissions from valves; the critical role of materials in leakage prevention; sealing materials and PFAS; how to navigate through the new regulations; throttling valves; precision flow control for high performance applications.

"With the presentation of the Call for Papers we are fostering the continuous exchange of knowledge and experience that characterises IVS - Industrial Valve Summit far beyond the three-day exhibition," said Francesco Apuzzo. "The guidelines to draft the scientific programme aim to further increase the quality of the round tables and individual talks, in synergy with the companies to proactively involve the key players of the supply chain. A shift that nominates VALVEcampus as a content producer, setting in motion resources and sub-committees, working directly with leading specialists."

Sissi Bellomo, journalist for "Il Sole 24 Ore", took the floor at the end of the day's events and discussed the topic of investments in the energy sector in times of war and great social and industrial transformation.

IVS - Industrial Valve Summit

Starting in 2015, Fiera di Bergamo has been hosting IVS - Industrial Valve Summit, the most important international event dedicated to industrial valves and flow control technologies. Created by valve manufacturers associated with Confindustria Bergamo, the Summit is organised by Confindustria Bergamo and Promoberg. The fifth edition of the Summit wrapped up with a final influx of 15,000 visitors from 69 countries. The public, representing all five continents, marked a 25% higher attendance than at the fourth Summit, when the city of Bergamo attracted 12,000 guests. The protagonists of IVS 2024 were the 325 exhibitors (+13% compared to the 2022 edition) from 14 countries, along with Italy, the companies represented the industry sectors of Germany, Great Britain, the United States of America, France, Denmark, Spain, the Netherlands, Norway, the United Arab Emirates, South Africa, Turkey, Niger and the Czech Republic. The international element has proved to be booming, with foreign companies doubling compared to the fourth edition and reaching 20 per cent of the total number of exhibitors. The wide-ranging scientific programme of IVS 2024 also underwent great development, with 52 events including conferences, round tables, workshops, case studies and laboratories, for a schedule over 50% greater than that of IVS 2022. These numbers tell how IVS has established itself as an essential showcase for the entire global supply chain connected to industrial valves and flow control.

VALVEcampus

VALVEcampus is the Association for the Training of Italian manufacturers of industrial valves and components for the Oil&Gas and Power Generation industries. Established by six members to promote and spread the technical culture of industrial valves among professionals, it operates as a training agency in the areas of design, technical standards, metallurgy, sealing systems and industrial valve auxiliary components. Today it counts over 40 members and organises dozens of training courses and seminars every year. The Association is the reference scientific partner of IVS - Industrial Valve Summit, for which it is in charge of the conference organisation. VALVEcampus aims to promote the know-how, professionalism and international role of Italy within the supply chain with its many activities. The IVS Valve Industry Think Tank embodies the mission of the Association, as it acts as a forum where opinions, news and expectations of the market can be shared, and where new opportunities, scenarios and strategies can be discussed with players in the supply chain.