



# 100 Years Racing Towards New Frontiers

Berardi Fasteners celebrates its centenary, maintaining its traditional values with renewed enthusiasm for new challenges, such as process digitization and internationalization of the markets.

It is celebrating its centenary with results exceeding expectations, crowning a history of growth and excellence. But far from resting on its laurels, Berardi Fasteners ([www.gberardi.com](http://www.gberardi.com)) is getting ready for new challenges, strong with its distinguishing features, namely a strong connection with its territory, coupled with its international attitude, and a keen attention for detail – where the juiciest opportunities often lie.

Berardi Fasteners has been running fast for a hundred years. Led by the Berardi family, now at its fifth generation, the company moved its first steps in May 1919, the age of Futurism, as a tools and parts shop in Piazza Maggiore, Bologna.

Step by step, screw by screw, the figures grew, along with quality, expertise, and ambition. In the '60s, during the Italian economic boom, Berardi set up its sales network and its first equipped warehouse to serve its clients more efficiently. Another warehouse was opened in 1997 in the city of Reggio Emilia, first of 12 local depots that are strategically placed across Italy while constantly connected with the central warehouse.

The will to do more and better didn't stop there, though. The new millennium was marked by fast vertical development for Berardi. With the acquisition of Vibolt and Vitman in 2006, Berardi Bullonerie became a group of companies. In 2010, the group entered



a partnership with American multinational Lee Spring, a crucial step in the continuous expansion of Berardi's product range, which today includes springs, anchors, fluidic, hydraulic, and pneumatic accessories, plastic fixings, operating parts, and Industry 4.0 components.

Today, the Berardi Fasteners Group is considered an international leader in Fasteners. Thanks to unrelenting investments in the innovation of logistics, Berardi can supply tailor made services in C parts management. In 2017, it inaugurated its futuristic new headquarters in Castel Guelfo (Bologna), with over 45.000 items stocked in a semi-automatic 10.000-sqm warehouse.

Apart from standard catalogue items, Berardi is equipped to offer custom-made parts and personalized fasteners kits, thanks to a highly skilled technical office. 100% optical selection is available for items used on automatic assembly lines. The industry's byword is rapidity, and Berardi works hard to save the client's time and money with precise, efficient solutions. The quality assurance lab is equipped with cutting-edge measuring tools and machinery to ensure full conformity of all products, to reduce good returns. Another strong point is Berardi's integrated logistics systems, namely Kanban and Kanban Up, installed

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on the client's production lines to automatize stock replenishment, easily monitored on a specially designed web portal and smartphone app.

With the recent acquisition of Brescia-based VI.B.F. Fasteners Srl, the group's headcount is now over 260 employees, 150.000 articles, and more than 3,5 billion pieces delivered per year, resulting in an annual turnover of 77 million €.

For its future, the company looks beyond Italian borders, and has already opened a sales office in Croatia, and an affiliate company in Morocco – Berardi Maroc ([www.berardimarc.com](http://www.berardimarc.com)).

The steady growth recorded in the last years has not prevented Berardi from valuing its human capital, its truly unique resource, making Berardi the reliable and attentive partner it is. "What are the values that led us this far? These are personal values that I recognize in myself, and in my colleagues" - stated President Giovanni Berardi - "Courtesy, modesty, and a lot of passion for one's work. These are crucial values that allowed us to obtain remarkable results so far, and surely will drive us to reach even more ambitious objectives in the future".

A protagonist of Berardi Fasteners' growth was unforgotten Francesco Berardi, passed away in 2014. The company devotes him memorial celebrations to finance local entities and development projects in Africa. ■

## Straight A Logistics

Berardi Fasteners proudly offers integrated logistics systems, not only for the easy supply of components, but rather as tailor-made projects designed to save our clients' time and resources.

Besides Kanban and Kanban Up, widely appreciated constant supply systems for fasteners, industrial components, fluidic and pneumatic fittings (all from one supplier), Berardi has implemented the EasySelf24 vending machine service, a step towards Industry 4.0.

This innovative system was conceived to automatize materials management, for example PPE, tools, first aid equipment, among others, making every transaction traceable.

EasySelf24 automatically sends notifications, purchase orders, and consumption statistics, allowing for easy online data monitoring. In three words: simple, quick, and safe ■

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