



**SUCCESS STORY OPELLA HEALTHCARE  
ITALY - ORIGGIO (IT)**

## Energy requalification for the pharma- ceutical production department

### Reduction in energy and CO<sub>2</sub> consumption

Opella Healthcare Italy's production plant in Origgio (VA) is an advanced biotechnology centre of excellence. It produces generic drugs for Opella, Sanofi's Consumer Healthcare business unit, such as Enterogermina and Maalox, destined for over 55 countries. Opella is strongly committed to increase its production capacity and to reduce its environmental impact and has therefore entrusted SOCOTIS Spa with the modernisation of its production site, with the aim to reduce both energy consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The work involved six AHUs dedicated to the drug production department, with the installation of 28 Belimo Energy Valves to convert the circuits from constant to variable flow rate. This ensured an optimal dynamic balancing in line with the AHUs' needs and a 50% reduction in energy consumption.

**TYPE OF BUILDING**

Pharmaceutical plant

**PROJECT**

RetroFIT+

**SECTOR**

Optimisation of AHUs and plant

**PRODUCTS**

Belimo Energy Valves

# Improve operational efficiency and reduce consumption

Opella Healthcare Italy is the Consumer Healthcare Business Unit of Sanofi, a global, innovative healthcare company committed to improve people's lives through science. Its headquarter is located in Milan, with a production plant in Origgio, in the region of Varese. The company employs around 360 employees and manages a portfolio of well-known brands in the self-medication, such as Enterogermina, Dulcolax, Maalox and Bisolvon. Recently, Opella Healthcare Italy undertook a significant transformation also by becoming a Benefit Company and obtaining the B Corp certification. This prestigious recognition reflects its commitment to sustainability and the collective wellbeing.

The Origgio plant recently celebrated its 50th anniversary with major plant upgrades. These upgrades have enabled the plant to increase production and to introduce new technologies to improve the efficiency and safety of the production processes.

The Air Handling Units (AHU) energy requalification project was born from the need to reduce consumption and to improve the operational efficiency in the solid drug production department. The original system consisted of a constant-flow hydronic circuit, with pumps using 3-way valves to supply the AHUs and the post-heating coils.

## The optimisation intervention

In this context, SOCOTIS Spa implemented a state-of-the-art solution that saw the replacement of the old valves with new Belimo Energy Valves equipped with pressure-independent regulation, thus transforming the hydronic circuit from constant to variable flow.

This modification resulted in an optimal dynamic balancing of the AHUs, ensuring efficient and precise performance in line with the tight temperature and humidity control requirements of pharmaceutical production.

The project involved six dedicated AHUs for the production of Maalox and Enterogermina, and included the complete replacement of the existing units. The system is now able to monitor and manage thermal energy consumption in real time, ensuring accurate control of operational efficiency. As a result of this intervention, the AHUs are now able to precisely regulate temperature and humidity levels within very strict ranges, with automatic dynamic balancing, DeltaT monitoring and regulation of the energy consumed – all managed by a single integrated device.



“Energy efficiency has been one of the priorities since the planning phase of the project, with a continuous monitoring of performance to ensure that targets were met.”

**Eng. Eleonora Motta, Project Manager  
SOCOTIS Spa**

## A 50% saving in consumption

One of the strengths of the project was the search for proven solutions, based on practical experiences and on concrete evidences.

Energy efficiency has been a priority since the planning phase of the project, with continuous monitoring of the performance to ensure that targets were met.

For the Energy Valve, the payback time of the investment was estimated at around 2 years due to the reduction in consumption, making the project highly cost-effective and environmentally friendly, with a significant reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, thus also supporting Opella's ESG objectives.

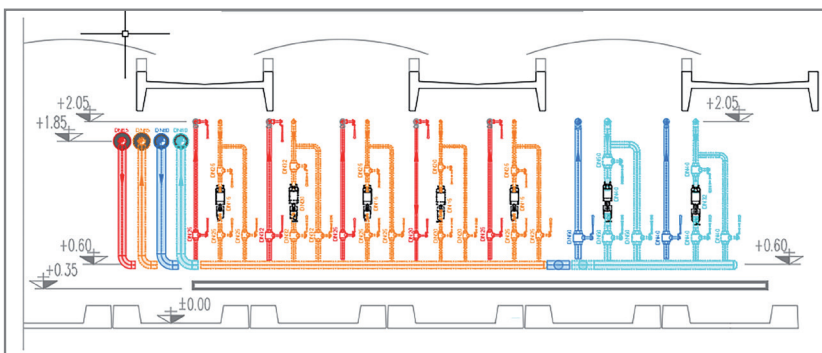
The renovated department accounts for exactly half of the total consumption of the production site. Thanks to the use of the Energy Valve, it was possible to achieve a 50% reduction in the energy consumption of the pumps, from 486 to 214 MWh, with an annual saving of 70 kWh on the refrigeration circuit. Overall, the intervention saved 647 MWh per year, with an overall reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions estimated at around 450 tonnes per year.



### ORIGGIO (VA) PLANT

Capacity: 60,000 m<sup>2</sup>  
(renewed department 2,000 m<sup>2</sup>)

References:  
[www.sanofi.com/it/italia](http://www.sanofi.com/it/italia)  
[www.socotis.it/](http://www.socotis.it/)



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